



MLB
Nationals sweep
Phillies for berth
in NL playoffs
Back page

MILITARY
Warning issued
after 'Joker'-related
shooting threat
Page 2



FACES
Actor Giancarlo Esposito
brings his passion to
'Godfather of Harlem' role
Page 18

Study: Army's new warfighting plans face obstacles in Europe » Page 3

STARS AND STRIPES®

stripes.com

Volume 78, No. 116 ©SS 2019

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 2019

平成32年4月5日 第三種郵便物認可 日刊(土日除く)
発行所 星条旗新聞社 〒106-0032 東京都港区六本木7丁目23番17号 定価 ¥50

50¢/Free to Deployed Areas

Impeachment probe roils Washington



Ukrainian
President
Volodymyr
Zelenskyy

PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY NOGA AMI-RAV/Stars and Stripes

Dems launch inquiry; released transcript shows Trump pushed Ukraine to investigate Biden

By LISA MASCARO,
MARY CLARE JALONICK and JULIE PACE
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump repeatedly pushed Ukraine's president to investigate Democratic rival Joe Biden, according to a rough transcript of a summer phone call that is now at the center of Democrats' impeachment probe into Trump.

In the conversation, Trump told his Ukrainian counterpart, "I would like for you to do us a favor." He urges him to work with Attorney General William Barr and Rudy Giuliani, Trump's personal lawyer.

The president's words set the parameters of the political debate to come, with Democrats saying that it laid the predicate for an impeachment inquiry and Trump dismissing it as a "nothing call." Yet the rough transcript clearly shows Trump's willingness to engage a foreign leader on matters directly related to his reelection prospects.

The new impeachment probe plunges a deeply divided nation into an election year clash between Congress and the commander in chief. The probe injects deep uncertainty into the 2020 election campaign and tests anew the nation's constitutional system of checks and balances.

Trump spent Wednesday meeting with world leaders at the United Nations, a remarkable split screen even for the turbulence of the Trump era. On his schedule: a meeting with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, whose contacts with Trump are now central to the impeachment inquiry.

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, who launched the impeachment inquiry after months of resistance, said Trump's call with Zelenskyy amounted to a "shakedown" to benefit his campaign. She declared, "Congress must act."

SEE IMPEACHMENT ON PAGE 10

RELATED

- Poll shows majority of Americans against impeachment
- Investigation pushes nation to political brink
- World reacts warily to news of probe

Pages 10-11

MILITARY

Warning issued on 'Joker'-related threat

By J.P. LAWRENCE
Stars and Stripes

Military commanders in Oklahoma were warned of the potential threat of violence at the theatrical release of the upcoming "Joker" movie, though law enforcement officials are not sure which theaters may be affected.

An Army Criminal Investigation Command memo issued Monday put commanders at Fort Sill, Okla., on notice about an intelligence bulletin that said a Texas law enforcement agency working with the FBI had discovered "disturbing and very specific chatter in the dark web" about the possible targeting of an unknown theater for a mass shooting during the Oct. 4 release.

An image of the memo was posted briefly to the popular Air Force arm/nco/snco Facebook page before being removed Tuesday. The command, which is also known as CID, confirmed its authenticity to Stars and Stripes.

"Out of an abundance of caution, our Fort Sill office distributed the memo to internal military personnel at Fort Sill," said CID spokesman Christopher Grey.

The memo was based on information in a bulletin from the Texas Joint Crime Information Center, Grey said.

An official at the Texas center, who declined to be named to discuss the matter freely, called the threat "valid," but said there was no specific location mentioned.

CID has in the past issued warnings based on information from civilian agencies about matters that were found to not be serious threats. Earlier this year, the command issued an internal



NIKO TAVERNISE/Warner Bros.

Joaquin Phoenix stars in the upcoming movie "Joker." A threat of violence at the movie's scheduled Oklahoma opening prompted the Army Criminal Investigation Command to issue a warning.

warning about the "Momo Challenge," though it had been widely debunked as a hoax.

Still, CID issued the warning because the challenge, which purportedly involved a series of increasingly dangerous tasks leading up to suicide or self-harm, "still has potential holding power over young and impressionable children" online, Grey told Stars and Stripes via email in April.

"The warning's intent is to

make the Army community aware of the susceptibility of children as ... internet and social media platform usage increases," he said at the time. "We have a significant role in preventing crimes and threats to our Army."

The warning comes as the upcoming movie, which focuses on the eponymous villain from the Batman comics, played by Joaquin Phoenix, has been winning awards at pre-release film festi-

vals. But it has also come under fire for purportedly glamorizing its villainous and violent main character.

Families of the victims of a 2012 shooting at a screening of the Batman film "The Dark Knight Rises" delivered a letter Tuesday to Warner Bros., the studio behind both that movie and the "Joker," criticizing the latest film portrayal for its "sympathetic" take on the villain's rise

from loner to killer, the Guardian newspaper reported.

That attack, in Aurora, Colo., left 12 dead and 70 injured.

Sandy Phillips, whose daughter, Jessica Ghawi, was one of 12 people killed in the suburban Denver theater, told The Associated Press she and four others sent the letter to Warner Bros., asking the studio to lobby Congress for gun control, support survivor programs and end any contributions to politicians backed by the National Rifle Association.

The Aurora theater was remodeled and renamed after the shooting, the AP reported. An employee at Century Aurora and XD, reached by telephone by the AP Tuesday, said there were no immediate plans to show "Joker" at the theater but referred calls for comment to Cinemark spokesman James Meredith.

The Batman movie just happened to be a blockbuster opening at the time the shooter, James Holmes, intended to commit the crime, George Brauchler, the 18th Judicial District attorney who prosecuted the case, told the Denver Post. Holmes was convicted of murder and sentenced to life in prison without parole.

Meanwhile, "Joker" director Todd Phillips has responded to the controversy surrounding his film, including some critiques arguing that it could inspire violence.

"I would just argue that you might want to watch the movie," Phillips told the website IGN. "You might want to watch it with an open mind."

lawrence.jp@stripes.com
Twitter: @jplawrence3

TODAY IN STRIPES

American Roundup	17
Business	21
Classified	19, 23
Comics	22
Crossword	22
Faces	18
Opinion	20
Sports	25-32
Weather	21

STARS AND STRIPES

However you read us,
wherever you need us.

Mobile • Online • Print

EUROPE

ADVERTISING

KRISTI KIMMEL

CustomerService@stripes.com

+49 (0) 0631.3615.9111
DSN: 314.583.9111

MIDDLE EAST

ADVERTISING

KRISTI KIMMEL

CustomerService@stripes.com

+49 (0) 0631.3615.9111
DSN: 314.583.9111

PACIFIC

ADVERTISING

ICHIRO
KATAYANAGI

CustomerHelp@Stripes.com

+81(3) 6385.3267 DSN 315.229.3267

PCSing? STARS AND STRIPES. RELOCATION GUIDE

Every Friday in the European and Pacific editions
of Stars and Stripes AND online daily at
www.stripes.com/relo



MILITARY

Army's warfighting plans face obstacles in Europe

By JOHN VANDIVER
Stars and Stripes

An Army strategy to work closely with allies to fight future wars could be at risk if the capability gap between the U.S. and some European militaries is allowed to widen, a new study suggests.

The Army outlined in a report called "Multi-Domain Operations 2028" its plan to rapidly deploy and integrate all elements of American military power — from traditional ground and air combat to newer warfighting zones such as cyber, space and information operations — in the event of conflict with powers like Russia or China.

The plan focuses on how to penetrate sophisticated enemy defenses and ensure the U.S. and its allies can maneuver, resupply and reinforce troops.

But there are problems with the strategy, the new study, titled "European Allies in US Multi-Domain Operations," has found. "There is a risk that if the U.S. does not engage its allies early ... U.S. capabilities will diverge from allied systems, making the level of integration necessary to achieve convergence unworkable," says the report by the Association of the U.S. Army's Institute of Land Warfare.

If the U.S. is to counterattack against a Russian incursion within 21 days, as military plans call for, "there will need to be widespread European cooperation on the movement of personnel and arms across borders," the report said.

Political realities in Europe are among the problems and could undermine the heart of the Army's modernization push, says the report published this week with

the London-based Royal United Services Institute.

The top priority in the Army's effort to upgrade its arsenal, for instance, is developing long-range precision fires crucial for countering Russia.

"The intent is to deploy fires in Europe able to outrange Russia's Iskander short-range ballistic missiles to strike railways, ammunition dumps and infrastructure critical to Russia's Integrated Air Defense System in the event of conflict," the report said.

The weapons would be central in future warfare, but the "political ramifications of reintroducing these systems to Europe may be significant," the report says.

Allies may be concerned that new deployments would set off an arms race, risk aggressive messaging from Russia about its nuclear capabilities and ultimately make European populations feel they are potential targets. "In this climate, gaining permission to base LRFP (long-range precision fires) on European territories may be difficult," the report says.

While countries such as Poland would probably be eager to host the American weapons, others, like Germany, could be expected to oppose such a move, opening a rift within NATO.

Meanwhile, non-NATO states like Austria could also be opposed to such weapon deployments and may cause difficulties in other areas that are key to the Army's plans, such as the free movement of military equipment and troops around Europe, the report says.

The U.S. military and NATO has been pushing for streamlined diplo-



JOANNA GADON GOMEZ/U.S. Army

An AN/TWQ-1 Avenger missile system fires at a moving target in Utska, Poland, on June 17. A report by the Association of the U.S. Army's Institute of Land Warfare warns that a capability gap between the U.S. and its allies could derail a strategy for fighting future wars.

matic clearances to accelerate troop movements in a crisis, but there are still no universal guidelines.

At the same time, military capability gaps are widening between the U.S. and its allies, and training isn't keeping pace with the demands imposed by the multidomain concept.

NATO exercises, and joint exercises between European and U.S. forces, are "inflexible and overly scripted" with allies "reluctant to have their limitations demonstrated in front of U.S. partners."

"Very little is trained to the point of failure," the report states. "Scripting is also pushed by NATO, which wishes such activities to be used to bolster its image internally, and its deterrence posture externally. This makes failure unacceptable."

Meanwhile, the warfighting concept also requires competing with Russia in areas

such as information and cyberoperations, but to be effective that would require access to cyberinfrastructure of foreign states. Providing access to the U.S. in peacetime to conduct cyber-reconnaissance "would be politically sensitive," according to the report.

For its part, the Army has described its plans as a work in progress.

When it released the Multi-Domain Operations 2028 concept at the end of last year, then-chief of staff Gen. Mark Milley said it was a "first step" in the Army's evolution. "We must examine all aspects of our warfighting methods and understand how we enable the joint force on the future battlefield. We must challenge our underlying assumptions," Milley wrote at the time.

vandiver.john@stripes.com
Twitter: @john_vandiver

For first time, Japan takes lead on Malabar exercise

By CHRISTIAN LOPEZ
Stars and Stripes

YOKOSUKA NAVAL BASE, Japan — Naval exercises involving warships and aircraft from the United States, Japan and India got underway off the coast of Sasebo, Japan, on Wednesday.

Exercise Malabar is an annual 10-day exercise aimed at addressing shared threats and improving relations between the participating countries.

This year, the Japan Maritime Self-De-

fense Force for the first time will be leading Malabar through a series of on-shore and at-sea training events, according to a statement issued Wednesday by the U.S. 7th Fleet.

"Thanks to the hard work of staffs and leaders in the Indian and U.S. navies, we now enjoy this excellent relationship between our three countries," JMSDF Rear Adm. Masafumi Nishiwaki said in the statement. "This exercise is an opportunity to fully integrate our teams and re-

fine our support for each other, so we can have greater confidence in our combined capabilities."

Malabar focuses on high-end warfighting skills, maritime patrol and reconnaissance operations, surface and antisubmarine warfare, helicopter operations and more, according to the statement.

The U.S. Navy sent the destroyer USS McCampbell from Yokosuka, the amphibious transport dock USS Green Bay from Sasebo and an unnamed Los Angeles-class nuclear fast attack submarine from Sub-

marine Group 7.

Japan sent the JMSDF helicopter carrier JS Kagata, destroyer Samidare and cruiser Chokai. The Indian Navy sent its stealth frigate INS Sahyadri, antisubmarine warfare corvette INS Kiltan and Poseidon-81 long-range maritime patrol aircraft.

Malabar began in 1992 with the U.S. and India. Japan became a permanent partner in 2015.

lopez.christian@stripes.com
Twitter: @Clopez_Stripes

US tanks, troops head to Lithuania for extended deployment

By JOHN VANDIVER
Stars and Stripes

STUTTGART, Germany — More than 500 U.S. soldiers and dozens of tanks and heavy fighting vehicles will deploy to Lithuania in the coming days on an extended mission to bulk up NATO's eastern flank, the Baltic country's military said Wednesday.

The troops are being dispatched as part of U.S. Army Europe's Atlantic Resolve campaign, which involves rotating hundreds of troops to locations up and down eastern Europe in an effort to deter Russian aggression in the

region.

The looming arrival of U.S. forces was welcomed by Lithuanian officials, who have lobbied for more frequent and longer American troop rotations since Atlantic Resolve began in the wake of Russia's annexation of Ukraine's Crimean Peninsula in 2014.

"We have sought a larger, long-term U.S. military involvement in Lithuania and the region consistently and patiently," Defense Minister Raimundas Karoblis said in a statement. "Therefore the deployment of the U.S. Army battalion for a longer period of

time is good and awaited news and a result of our efforts and investment."

The U.S. military is "a vital factor of deterrence" in the Baltic region, Karoblis said.

Unlike past deployments of Army battalions to Lithuania, the current mission is for a long-term deployment rather than an international exercise, the Lithuanian Defense Ministry said. The unit — the 1st Battalion, 9th Cavalry Regiment out of Fort Hood, Texas — is expected to be in the country through spring 2020, it said.

The unit is part of a broader brigade rotation into Europe in-

volving the 2nd Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, which deploys in October, U.S. Army Europe said.

The 9th Cavalry will bring with it 30 Abrams tanks, 25 Bradley Infantry Fighting Vehicles and 70 wheeled vehicles, the Defense Ministry said. They will be based out of a training area in Pabrade, a small town near the country's border with Belarus.

Lithuania will provide lodging and logistical support during the deployment, the ministry said.

For the U.S.-led NATO alliance, the Baltic countries of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania have been

an area of focus over the past couple of years. All three have multinational alliance battlegroups, which were deployed on a year-round basis in 2017 to deter Russian aggression.

A U.S. battlegroup is also positioned in northern Poland, near the Russian military hub Kaliningrad, which is wedged between Poland and Lithuania. NATO forces in the area are focused on defending the Suwalki Gap, a vulnerable 45-mile corridor regarded as a likely battle zone in the event of a conflict with Russia.

vandiver.john@stripes.com
Twitter: @john_vandiver

MILITARY

Mold, water force partial closure of 2 new schools

By JENNIFER H. SVAN
Stars and Stripes

KAISERSLAUTERN, Germany — Mold and water issues have forced two new schools on U.S. bases in Germany to partially close as officials work to correct the potential health hazards.

Black mold was discovered in one of the walls at Kaiserslautern High School last spring, while a water leak was detected last week under the floor in the Vogelweh Elementary School's first-grade "neighborhood" — a term used to describe a cluster of open classrooms in Department of Defense Education Activity's newer facilities, dubbed "21st Century Schools."

Kaiserslautern opened last fall and Vogelweh opened several weeks ago.

The building issues have not affected instruction, said the principals at both schools.

"We do not expect any disruption to daily activities," Vogelweh principal David Lee said in a note to parents last week.

Students and furniture were

moved out of the affected area at the Vogelweh school to allow the floor to dry, officials said.

Work was also being done to determine the source of the leak, Steve Ross, DODEA program manager for the Army Corps of Engineers Europe district, said in a statement. USACE is overseeing repairs at both schools.

The black mold at the high school may have started with clogged drains in one of the school's "living walls," a plant wall and irrigation system that's one of several nontraditional design features built into the \$74 million school, officials said. The mold was found in adjacent walls.

The wall near where the mold was found is constructed of reinforced concrete with an aluminum frame — which holds fabric-lined baskets filled with plants and soil — and a drip irrigation system. It drains into the building's sewer and stormwater system, Ross said.

Leaves appear to have plugged the open drains connected to

one of the walls, causing water to overflow and drain into the floors, raising humidity in the atrium, Ross said.

Kaiserslautern High School has several living walls throughout the school. They're intended to remove indoor air contaminants, serve as an educational tool and enhance the transmission of natural light.

The living wall was a pilot project at Kaiserslautern and no other DODEA school in Europe has one, Ross said.

The mold was tested this summer and damaged plaster was removed, Ross said. Dehumidifiers were used for several weeks to dry out the affected areas. The next step is to repair the damaged areas and retest the air quality, Ross said.

Repair efforts are expected to take about a month and a half.

Meanwhile, the wing where the mold was found remains closed.

Exposure to mold may cause health issues, particularly in individuals with allergies or asthma, the Centers for Disease Control



JENNIFER H. SVAN/Stars and Stripes

Students work in class last spring at Kaiserslautern High School in Germany. Black mold was found in the state-of-the-art school a year after it opened, forcing it to be partially closed.

and Prevention says on its website. There have been no reports of any illnesses connected to the mold, school officials said.

The flexibility of modern schools, such as Kaiserslautern and Vogelweh, is what allowed classes to continue without "any disruption," Lee, the elementary school principal, said in his note

to parents.

"Our 21st Century learning environment allows us to accommodate a variety of class configurations and maintain our high expectations for instruction," he wrote.

svan.jennifer@stripes.com
Twitter: @stripesktown



September 27

5 - 9 p.m.
Yokosuka
Bowling Center
Parking Lot

Oktoberfest 2019

German Food & Drink • Live Entertainment • Giant Corn Hole Competition
Stein Hoist Competition • Keg Roll • Costume Contest • and more!

For more information, please call 243-1215 or send email to mwr_special_events@fe.navy.mil
Enjoy this event responsibly! Don't drink & drive! Event is subject to change without notice.

MILITARY

S. Korea out, China in at Japan's fleet review

BY HANA KUSUMOTO
AND CAITLIN DOORNBOS
Stars and Stripes

South Korea is out, but China is in this year at the Japan Maritime Self-Defense Fleet Review scheduled for Oct. 14, a JMSDF spokesman said Wednesday.

South Korea last month decided to let expire in November an intelligence-sharing pact with Japan — the General Security of Military Information Agreement. The pact allows the countries to share critical security information, including intelligence on North Korea's nuclear and missile works.

"Japan-South Korea relations remains very harsh due to negative actions taken by the South Korean side," JMSDF Chief of Staff Adm. Hiroshi Yamamura said during a news conference Tuesday, according to a spokesman.

He did not specify during the conference what he meant by negative actions, the spokesman said.

"We comprehensively determined that we don't have an adequate environment to invite South Korea for [this year's] fleet review," Yamamura added, according to the spokesman.

South Korea's decision to end the pact brought criticism from the United States, which has defense treaties with both countries.

"This will make defending [South Korea] more complicated and increase risk to U.S. forces," State Department spokeswoman Morgan Ortigas said in a tweet Aug. 25.

South Korean officials have said the decision was made after Japan removed the country from its list of trusted trading partners and announced it would restrict exports of chemicals considered essential

to South Korean manufacturers.

Relations between the countries have been fraught with tension for decades over atrocities that happened during Japan's occupation of South Korea in 1910-45.

Last year, South Korea's Supreme Court ruled Japan must compensate South Koreans forced to work for Japan during the occupation. Japan disputes the ruling, arguing a 1965 treaty settled the debts, according to a July 18 Reuters report.

South Korea has participated in Japan's fleet review twice in the past, including the most recent one in 2015, according to the JMSDF spokesman.

The spokesman also said China will be participating for the first time.

The Chinese navy, which held its own fleet review in April to celebrate its 70th anniversary, similarly retracted an invitation to France to take part in the event. The

French navy, in a rare move by a European power, on April 6 sent a warship through the Taiwan Strait, a waterway over which China asserts authority.

That act by France presumably led to China withdrawing its invitation, according to published reports at the time.

The U.S. declined an invitation to send warships to the China fleet review.

Japan expects 46 ships and 40 aircraft, including those from the U.S., Canada, China, Singapore, the United Kingdom, India and Australia, according to a JMSDF press release.

The review will be held in Sagami Bay, southwest of Tokyo Bay and between Japan's Miura and Izu peninsulas.

kusumoto.hana@starsandstripes.com
Twitter: @HanaKusumoto
doornbos.caitlin@starsandstripes.com
Twitter: @CaitlinDoornbos

Navy investigating shooting death of Marine sentry at Georgia base

Stars and Stripes

The Navy is probing the Aug. 18 shooting death of a Marine sentry in Georgia, according to media reports.

Sgt. Derek Diesel, 25, died from a gunshot wound to the head while posted as an armed sentry at Naval Submarine Base Kings

Bay, according to a military mishap report cited by the Marine Corps Times on Wednesday.

Diesel joined the service in 2014 and was assigned to the Marine Corps Security Force Regiment tasked with guarding the submarine base, the newspaper reported. The facility is described on its official website as the East

Coast home of the Ohio-class submarines.

The Naval Criminal Investigative Service is investigating the death, the report said.

The young Marine's obituary, on the Florida-based Beach Funeral Homes website, states that he was born in Manhasset, N.Y., to Keith and Marion Diesel and

attended Virginia Military Institute before joining the Marines.

He was married and had a 2-year-old daughter, the obituary said.

"Derek was a hardworking, passionate leader both at home and throughout his service in the Marine Corps," the obituary states. "He loved his family,

friends, and country. His hobbies included spending time with his wife and daughter, working on their house, cars and motorcycles. He was also a member of Rival (Motorcycle Club) and enjoyed riding with his brothers in the club."

news@starsandstripes.com

The New Sanno Presents
HALLOWEEN BOO PARTY
Best Halloween Costume Contest
DJ E Smoove
[DJ CASH] [DJ MINA] [DJ SILVER FOX]
OCT 26 SAT
1900 - 2400
Empire Room Doors Open at 1830
\$20/Person
Includes Admission and Two Drink Tickets
Bar Snacks Available for Purchase
(Sorry no one under 20 years of age permitted)
sponsored by
STARS & STRIPES

The New Sanno Presents
THANKSGIVING BUFFET
NOV 28 THU
SERVING FROM 1100 - 1900
ADULTS: \$29.95
CHILDREN: \$14.95 (6-12)
The New Sanno Presents
CHRISTMAS BUFFET
DEC 25 WED
SERVING FROM 1100 - 1900
ADULTS: \$29.95
CHILDREN: \$14.95 (6-12)

THE NEW SANNO PRESENTS
H'ALLOWEEN SUNDAY BRUNCH
OCT 27 SUN
10:00 - 15:00
ADULT: \$29.95
CHILD: \$14.95 (6-12)
PUMPKIN WEIGHT GUESS PRIZE:
Brunch Coupon
for family (2 adults, 2 children)
Costume Contest:
11am (under 12)
★ Music ★ Games ★ Trick or Treat
★ Storybook Reading
★ Crafting Activity

The New Sanno Presents
CHRISTMAS BUFFET
DEC 25 WED
SERVING FROM 1100 - 1900
ADULTS: \$29.95
CHILDREN: \$14.95 (6-12)



TOKYO, JAPAN

www.thenewsanno.com

BOOK NOW!!
229-7151, 03-3440-7871 EXT. 7151
events@thenewsanno.com
Tickets are Non-Refundable



THE NEW SANNO

MILITARY

Some Navy residents will see jump in electricity rates

By WYATT OLSON
Stars and Stripes

JOINT BASE PEARL HARBOR-HICKAM, Hawaii — Navy installation officials are scrambling to explain a 68% jump in electricity rates next month for airmen and sailors living in privatized housing in Hawaii.

Residents of Hickam Communities and Ohana Military Communities were notified only two weeks ago that the rate for electricity coming from a Navy-owned power grid would increase from 19 cents per kilowatt-hour to 32 cents per kWh on Oct. 1.

A residence using 500 kWh per month — roughly the Hawaii state average — would see a monthly bill increase from \$95 to \$160.

Hickam Communities and Ohana Military Communities host just over 7,000 residential units.

The Navy is holding a series of town hall meetings in an attempt to explain the increase and the short notice.

"No excuses, no excuses,"

Capt. Marc Delao, head of Naval Facilities Engineering Command Hawaii, told a group of about 200 residents during a Monday evening town hall at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam.

He said he understood the frustration expressed by some residents for not being given notice of the rate increase months earlier.

"I totally get that," he said. "I will be absolutely honest with you. I failed here. I will take full responsibility for that on behalf of the Navy, the team. I take responsibility."

But he was quick to add that "there ain't really a whole lot I can do" about changing the rate that begins Oct. 1, which is the start of federal fiscal year 2020.

"What is done is done for FY20," he said. "That rate is there."

The rate increase is the result of a Navy-wide budget reform that converted the engineering command from a self-supporting revolving-fund organization into a general fund entity. Under the new structure, the command is required to bill users the ac-

tual costs of utilities and facilities management.

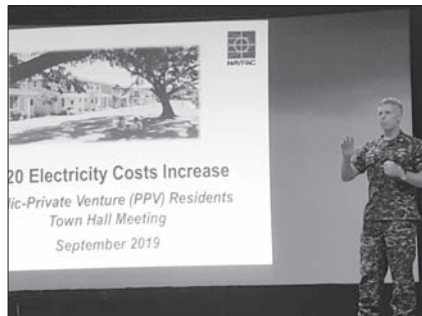
For roughly the past five years, the engineering command had set the electricity rate paid by residents of Hickam Communities and Ohana Military Communities below what it actually costs the Navy to buy from Hawaiian Electric Co., Delao said.

As of Oct. 1, the Navy will buy electricity from Hawaiian Electric, add overhead costs of management and maintenance and then charge customers based on those real costs, he said.

Hawaii's residential electricity rates are the highest in America.

Delao said he flew to Washington two weeks ago to plead with "corporate headquarters" for relief from the 39 cents per kilowatt-hour the Navy had initially intended for Hawaii.

Last week, Naval Facilities Engineering Command Hawaii learned that the rate for fiscal year 2020 was being lowered to 32 cents per kWh, which is basically the same as Hawaiian Electric's rate for regular residential



WYATT OLSON/Stars and Stripes

Capt. Jeff Bernard, commander of Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam in Hawaii, speaks about increased electricity rates for residents of Navy privatized housing during a town hall meeting Monday.

customers on Oahu, he said.

Some residents questioned why the energy being generated and sold back to Hawaiian Electric from the many solar panels in the two communities did not lead to lower electric bills. An engineering command representative said solar is offsetting only 15 percent of electrical demand.

Delao and other officials at the town hall meeting encouraged residents to use the Navy's Know Load program, an energy assess-

ment that evaluates the efficiency of home appliances.

But a resident who identified herself as a single mother challenged the usefulness of the program.

"I've done it twice, and both times they told me that I'm doing everything fine, everything's perfect," she told the audience. "Yet I'm still paying over \$300 a month."

olson.wyatt@stripes.com
Twitter: @WyattOlson

Low-altitude flight ban urged after helo's hard landing

By MARTY EGNASH
AND MARCUS KLOECKNER
Stars and Stripes

ANSBACH, Germany — A German protest group called Wednesday for low-altitude military flights to be banned after an Army attack helicopter cut six high-voltage power lines when it made an emergency landing in the Bavaria region, officials and media reports said.

"The extremely low flight regulations for U.S. helicopters stationed in Ansbach-Katterbach and Illesheim put lives in danger," the Etz Langt's pressure group said in a statement posted on its website.

"Flights as low as three meters above ground and landings in open fields and near residential areas are allowed. This is totally irresponsible," the group said.

More than 200 firefighters responded to a field near the town of Linden on Tuesday after getting reports of a helicopter crash, said area fire chief Johannes Hofmann, who said he was first on the scene.

"We did not know if it was a bad crash and if the helicopter was on fire," he said.

When Hofmann arrived, he saw the



7th Army Training Command

A 12th Combat Aviation Brigade AH-64 Apache helicopter flies over Germany in March. An Apache cut six power lines when it made an emergency landing near the German town of Linden on Tuesday.

AH-64D Apache helicopter standing in a field, with its two crewmembers outside. Pictures and video taken by a local photographer appeared to show the helicopter's

windshield cracked in several places.

"One of the pilots said that he felt some pain in his back," Hofmann said. "But he did not want to be checked out by our paramedics."

The Apache and crew were from the 12th Combat Aviation Brigade, stationed in Ansbach, about 20 miles away, the Army said in a statement. The incident happened during a routine training flight.

"One of our Apache helicopters had to land quickly and unexpectedly," said Col. John B. Broam, the brigade commander. "There are no reported injuries at this time."

Army aviators undergo training that is "realistic and challenging," Broam said.

"It has to be to ensure we are constantly proficient and ready to respond to any mission we are called on to perform," he said. "We balance that difficult training with taking every safety precaution we can."

Hofmann, who has been a firefighter in the region since 2004, said he has seen a lot, but he was in disbelief when initial reports came in of a helicopter crash. He and other firefighters thought it might have

been a downed drone.

Shortly after local fire crews arrived on the scene, Army military police also showed up. The German crews then began taking care of the power lines.

"The damage was really bad," Hofmann said.

A power outage lasted only a few milliseconds, but the emergency landing had a somewhat longer-lasting impact. The A7 highway between Rothenburg ob der Tauber and Bad Windsheim was shut down in both directions for several hours as crews worked to repair the power line, Hofmann said. It had reopened by Wednesday evening, local media reported.

The area where the emergency landing occurred is "not suitable for risky flight training," said the Etz Langt's protest group.

"In the U.S., there are plenty of uninhabited areas where no residents would be in danger," the group said. "If Donald Trump wants to play war games, he should do it at home, not here."

kloekner.marcus@stripes.com
egnash.marty@stripes.com
Twitter: @Marty_Stripes

Navy Exchange joins AAFES in banning sale of vape products

By CHRISTIAN LOPEZ
AND JAMES BOLINGER
Stars and Stripes

The Navy Exchange is banning concessionaires from selling electronic cigarettes and vape products at its locations starting Oct. 1, an official said Tuesday.

"The NEX does not sell any vaping products, but some NEX locations have concession vendors

who do sell these products," Navy Exchange Service Command public affairs officer Courtney Williams said in an email.

"Therefore, due to recent federal proposals, beginning on 1 OCT, the NEX will prohibit all concessionaires or vendors from selling e-cigarettes or vaping products in all NEX locations," she said.

Williams said the Navy made

the decision Sept. 12, the same day the Army Public Health Center warned servicemembers to avoid vape products after the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said vaping may be linked to hundreds of cases of severe lung disease and at least six deaths in dozens of states.

The Army and Air Force Exchange Service also plans to pull

vape products from store shelves starting Monday.

The Marine Corps Exchange, however, hasn't decided whether to take e-cigarettes and vape products off its shelves, a Marine Corps official said in an email Wednesday.

"No decisions have been made at this time," said Bryan Driver, of the Plans, Policy and Analysis

Directorate, Business and Support Services, Headquarters Marine Corps.

Last week, retail giant Walmart announced it would stop selling the products amid concerns about links to severe lung disease.

lopez.christian@stripes.com
Twitter: @Clopez_Stripes
bolinger.james@stripes.com
Twitter: @bolinger2004

PACIFIC



KELSEY DORNHEIL/U.S. Marine Corps

An MV-22B Osprey from the 1st Marine Aircraft Wing prepares to land on an Okinawan island in 2016. The Japan Coast Guard is seeking charges against a Marine Osprey pilot in a 2016 crash.

Japan Coast Guard wants Osprey pilot in 2016 crash charged

BY MATTHEW M. BURKE
AND AYA ICHIHASHI
Stars and Stripes

CAMP FOSTER, Okinawa — Japan Coast Guard officials have requested that prosecutors charge a Marine helicopter pilot found to be at fault in a 2016 MV-22 Osprey crash off Okinawa.

The charges were referred Tuesday to the Naha District Public Prosecutors Office by the Nakagusuku Coast Guard Office, a Coast Guard spokesman confirmed to Stars and Stripes on Wednesday.

Coast Guard officials requested that the unnamed Marine pilot be charged with negligence resulting in an aircraft crash under Japanese aviation law, which could bring three years in prison or up to \$1,863 in fines.

Prosecutors declined to comment Wednesday when asked if they intend to charge the pilot.

The pilot's name is not known because Marine officials have declined to provide it to Coast Guard officials, the Coast Guard spokesman said.

"We will examine the case thoroughly and make a decision," a spokesman for the prosecutor's office said Wednesday.

The spokesman said not having the name of the servicemember does not necessarily doom any potential prosecution.

Coast Guard officials said they recently wrapped up their investigation into the incident. They declined to comment further.

In Japan, the Coast Guard enforces a maritime law enforcement capacity and is separate from the Ministry of Defense.

It is customary in Japan for some government officials to speak on condition of anonymity.

Marine officials did not respond to requests seeking comment Wednesday. Okinawa prefectural officials declined to comment and Okinawa Defense Bureau officials, which represent Japan's Ministry of Defense on the island, did not respond to requests seeking comment.

The status of forces agreement between the countries gives Japanese authorities jurisdiction to

prosecute U.S. servicemembers "with respect to offenses committed within the territory of Japan and punishable by the law of Japan."

However, the SOFA also waives certain claims of property damage and maritime salvage if "the vessel or cargo salvaged was owned by a Party and being used by its defense services for official purposes."

Officials from Japan's Foreign Ministry did not respond to requests seeking comment regarding the SOFA on Wednesday.

The crash occurred during nighttime aerial refueling on Dec. 13, 2016, after one of the helicopter-airplane hybrid's propellers clipped a child hose on an Air Force C-130 tanker, officials said at the time.

The pilot was able to limp 18 miles back to Okinawa but put the tilt-rotor aircraft down into the sea rather than fly over a residential area to reach Marine Corps Air Station Futenma.

Two of its five crewmembers were injured in the crash. The aircraft — assigned to Marine Aircraft Group 36, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing — was a total loss at approximately \$90 million.

Osprey operations were temporarily suspended after the incident.

The crew was lauded by then-III Marine Expeditionary Force commander Lt. Gen. Lawrence Nicholson for risking their lives rather than flying over Okinawan homes en route to Futenma, though local opposition over the safety of the aircraft flared up.

Nicholson delivered the report regarding the incident to Okinawan officials on Sept. 11, 2017.

Responsibility for the crash was determined to rest solely with the pilot. Marine officials never commented on the pilot's status or whether the pilot was punished.

The U.S. military took a series of preventative measures after the crash, from adding wake turbulence to flight simulators to education and instruction.

burke.matt@stripes.com
Twitter: @MatthewMBurke1
ichihashi.aya@stripes.com
Twitter: @AyaIchihashi

US, S. Korea to continue cost-sharing deal talks

Washington wants Seoul to pay more for stationing troops on peninsula

BY KIM GAMEL
AND YOO KYONG CHANG
Stars and Stripes

SEOUL, South Korea — With a Dec. 31 deadline looming, the United States and South Korea agreed to work toward a "reasonable and fair" military cost-sharing deal as negotiators wrapped up the first round of talks Wednesday, the Foreign Ministry said.

U.S. demands that Seoul pay more for stationing some 28,500 American troops on the divided peninsula have raised pressure on the longtime alliance as the two sides are trying to get nuclear talks with North Korea back on track.

Teams led by State Department official James DeHart and veteran South Korean negotiator Chang Won-sam met Tuesday and Wednesday at the Korea Institute for Defense Analyses in Seoul to discuss the 11th Special Measures Agreement.

"South Korea and the United States agreed to continue the negotiations for sharing the cost at a reasonable and fair level based on mutual respect and trust as allies in a dynamic and new negotiating environment," the Foreign Ministry said. "Both sides shared the view that the [South Korean]-U.S. alliance is stronger than ever."

The next round of talks is to be held next month in the United States.

The two sides missed last year's deadline after months of fraught bargaining but agreed in February on a stopgap measure that required South Korea to pay 1.04 trillion won (\$920 million at the time) for 2018.

That was an 8.2% increase from the previous year. However, the contract was for only one year, instead of the usual five years, and is due to expire at the end of this year.

South Korean media have reported that the Trump administration has sought a fivefold increase to about \$5 billion a year by including payment for the deployment of bombers and other strategic assets in addition to the traditional labor costs.

Negotiations over the agreement, which have taken place since 1991, have always been difficult.

But the current discussions come as the allies face new challenges after the South Koreans ended a U.S.-backed military intelligence-sharing agreement with rival Japan.

North Korea also has stepped up criticism of the alliance, which it considers an existential threat, as it seeks security guarantees as well as sanctions relief in exchange for possible concessions over its nuclear weapons program.

South Korean media have reported that the Trump administration has sought a fivefold increase to about \$5 billion a year.

Trump has consistently called for South Korea to increase its contribution, in line with his general position that U.S. allies should pay more for their own defense.

He and South Korean President Moon Jae-in also discussed the issue during a summit Monday on the sidelines of the United Nations General Assembly in New York.

"We are also revitalizing our alliances by making it very clear that all of our partners are expected to pay their fair share of the tremendous defense burden which the United States has borne in the past," Trump reiterated during his speech Tuesday at the General Assembly.

In August, he tweeted that

South Korea was "a very wealthy nation" and had "agreed to pay substantially more money to the United States in order to defend itself from North Korea." South Korean officials stressed at the time that negotiations had not yet begun.

South Korea says it has paid nearly half of the \$2 billion cost for stationing U.S. troops in South Korea annually as well as funding the nearly \$11 billion expansion of Camp Humphreys, the new U.S. military headquarters base south of Seoul.

gamel.kim@stripes.com
Twitter: @kingamel
chang.kyong@stripes.com

Ecker

HONDA & ACURA

www.honda-ecker.de
hauptstuehle/honda-ecker.de
Mon-Fri 0800 - 1700 • Sat 0900-1300

06372-4607 • Kaiserstr. 79, 66851 Hauptstuhl

- Accident Repairs
- Body Work
- Maintenance
- Warranty - Work
- Damage Estimates
- Tax Free

BEST Indoor Playground in the KMC!

YABADOO

Hours of Operation
Mon-Thu: 10am - 3pm • 7pm
Fri, Sat, Sun: 11am - 7pm
Closed Wednesdays *
*Except German school breaks
Open from March 16th Holiday

Admission
C - Kids (1 yr+)
A - Adults
FRET - Seniors (65 yr+)

Bring this ad and set 2 Kids & 2 Adults for ONLY €14,-

Hauptstr. 86 • 67678 Mehlingen • Info-Hotline 06303-80 60 69
www.indoor-playground-yabadoo.com
- Check website for Holiday Hours & Discounts -

MILITARY

Edwards AFB will honor parachutist who died in jump

By CHAD GARLAND
Stars and Stripes

A master parachutist who died in a training exercise in southern California this month will have two drop zones dedicated in his honor at Edwards Air Force Base, officials said.

One of the areas will be called "Rick Drop Zone" in a nod to the nickname of Staff Sgt. Adam Erickson, 29, who was killed on Sept. 10 during a routine military proficiency jump, Master Sgt. Brandon Fountain said during a memorial service at one of the base's chapels on Friday.

Erickson was a Survival, Evasion, Resistance and Escape specialist who was certified as a test parachutist and served as non-commissioned officer in charge of parachutist program operations with the 412th Operations Support Squadron, a base statement said.

Since his death, many have rallied to show support for his family and colleagues, including providing motorcades to escort

his teammates to their hotel the day he died and for his family on the day of his burial last week.

"We've cried a lot for Adam," Fountain, superintendent of the SERE/Test Parachute Program at the base, was quoted saying in a statement. "But I can promise you that most of those tears had been from laughing."

The Ojai, Calif.-native was posthumously awarded a Meritorious Service medal, which 412th Operations Group commander Col. Timothy Spaulding presented to Erickson's mother, Karen.

"Thank you for making him the wonderful, loving, smart, funny and ridiculous perfect man that he was," Fountain told the Erickson family.

"Saying Adam will be missed is a massive understatement; he very clearly enhanced every life that he touched."

Erickson had deployed to Qatar to support battlefield personnel recovery operations in U.S. Central Command in 2016 and had served as a jumpmaster on a deployment to Romania this year.



CHRISTOPHER DYER/U.S. Air Force

A memorial for Staff Sgt. Adam Erickson was held Friday at Edwards Air Force Base, Calif. The base will dedicate two parachute drop zones in honor of Erickson, a master parachutist who died in a jump.

Calling him a "phenomenal jumpmaster," Fountain said Erickson had earned the coveted master parachutist rating just weeks before his death.

The days since his death have been "full of mixed emotions," 412th Test Wing Command Chief Master Sgt. Ian Eishen said in a Facebook post Saturday thanking members of the Air Force and the community for various forms of support.

Donors rallied to raise more than \$23,000 to ensure family,

friends and others could travel to attend Erickson's funeral last week near his hometown. Erickson's sister has said some of that money would be used for memorials at Edwards and in Ojai.

"When Adam's prior Group Chief Marc Allen took leave to fly back to the area to help this team grieve and asked what he could do, the family said they needed help with yardwork" before the large gathering of family arrived for the funeral, Eishen said. "So Marc got to work."

A caravan of airmen traveled to that ceremony, "to ensure a sea of blue service dress uniforms" was present, including more than 70 members of the SERE community who shared stories of Erickson's life with his family, Eishen said.

Listening to family stories "confirmed how lucky we were to know you," Eishen said. "Thank you, Adam."

garland.chad@stripes.com
Twitter: @chadgarland

Veterans ask Trump to end delay on blue water claims

By NIKKI WENTLING
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — Vietnam veteran Bobby Daniels has been among 24 and 32 months to live, and he's between some of those to ensure that his wife receives the benefits she's owed when he's gone.

Daniels, 79, is diagnosed with terminal prostate and bone cancer, thought to be associated with his military service. He served aboard the USS Lexington and is a "Blue Water" Navy veteran — those who worked aboard aircraft carriers, destroyers and other ships in the territorial seas of Vietnam.

Daniels and other blue water veterans — a group that fought for years to prove they were exposed to the chemical herbicide Agent Orange — saw some major wins during the past year. They won a federal court case that granted them Department of Veterans Affairs benefits. In June, they witnessed the passage of a new law, the Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans Act of 2019, that reinforces their eligibility for disability compensation.

However, about a week after President Donald Trump signed the legislation, VA Secretary Robert Wilkie imposed a hold on processing blue water claims until next year, citing a provision in the law that says the secretary can enforce a stay on claims until the law goes into effect Jan. 1, 2020.

Daniels has been attempting to have the VA recognize his Agent Orange exposure so his wife can receive survivor's benefits,

known as disability and indemnity compensation, when he dies. The couple has taken a second mortgage on their home to pay for his medical expenses, he said.

They celebrated it as a victory when Trump signed the new law in June. Then, with Wilkie's announcement, Daniels "felt like somebody sledgehammered me in the mouth."

"My wife has been by my side for 56 years. We struggle through tough times together," Daniels said. "My biggest fear now is leaving her behind to struggle through tough times alone."

Daniels traveled from his home of New Madrid, Mo., to join the Veterans of Foreign Wars, Vietnam Veterans of America and Disabled American Veterans, as well as Sen. Jon Tester, D-Mont., and Rep. Mark Takano, D-Calif., outside the Senate on Tuesday. The group urged Trump to lift the hold on claims. Earlier Tuesday, nine veterans organizations delivered a letter to the White House urging Trump to meet with them about the issue.

Shane Liermann, a leader with Disabled American Veterans, said Wilkie's recent response about the delay prompted them to directly appeal to Trump.

"It is apparent our pleas have fallen on deaf ears," Liermann said.

In an official statement this past summer, Wilkie justified the delay by arguing the VA needs time to implement the Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans Act without causing adverse effects on other veterans



JOE GROMELSKI/Stars and Stripes

Bobby Daniels and Claudia Holt at a press conference during which lawmakers and veterans urged the administration to provide health care and benefits to Vietnam-era veterans living with the effects of exposure to Agent Orange.

awaiting claims decisions.

"We are working to ensure that we have the proper resources in place to meet the needs of our Blue Water veteran community and minimize the impact on all veterans filing for disability compensation," Wilkie said in the statement.

Tester said his office has asked the VA about the rollout of the claims processing Jan. 1 but has not received any details.

"We've done our job, the courts have done their job, and now they need to provide the benefits," Tester said. "As far as I'm concerned, they should start right away, not January 2020. And if there are any excuses in January 2020, I may pull what little hair I have out."

The lawmakers and veterans who spoke Tuesday said the VA could process at least some blue water claims before Jan. 1.

wentling.nikki@stripes.com
Twitter: @nikkiwentling

Man sentenced for theft from Army Reserve

By ROSE L. THAYER
Stars and Stripes

AUSTIN, Texas — A former Army Reserve civilian employee was sentenced Tuesday to 18 months in federal prison for stealing more than \$400,000 from the 63rd Regional Support Command at Moffett Field in Mountain View, Calif., according to the Justice Department.

Ramon Torry, 55, of Irvine, Calif., admitted guilt in a plea agreement to charges of wire fraud and theft of government money in a scheme related to creating a public service announcement for the command. Along with time behind bars, U.S. District Court Judge Beth Labson Freeman in the Northern District of California's San Jose Division sentenced Torry to three years supervised release and ordered him to pay \$302,982.29 in restitution and forfeiture of the same amount, according to a press release.

Between December 2015 and October 2017 while employed as a manpower analyst with the command, Torry devised a scheme to steal money from the unit through a contract for the creation of a public service announcement touting the command's accomplishments. In February 2016, Torry began creating fake invoices for work allegedly performed by a California production company.

thayer.rose@stripes.com
Twitter: @Rose_Lori

MILITARY

2 lawmakers seek chemical contaminant reform in NDAA

By NEIL FOTRE
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — Two House lawmakers on Tuesday called for reform on toxic fluorinated chemicals to help prevent further contamination at military bases throughout the country.

"This is a national health crisis," Rep. Debbie Dingell, D-Mich., said during a news conference with Rep. Dan Kildee, D-Mich., to announce their plan to combat the chemicals, commonly known as PFAS. Today nearly all Americans, including newborn babies, have PFAS in their blood, and up to 110 million people may be drinking PFAS-contaminated water."

More than 100 Army installations were discovered to have drinking water contaminated with PFAS, according to a recent report from the Army conducted by the Environmental Working Group, a nonprofit organization. The highest levels were found in Fort Leavenworth, Kan., the National Guard's Joint Training Base in Los Alamitos, Calif., and Belmont Air Force, Mich.

The Environmental Protection Agency designates per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances, or PFAS, as "a category of man-made chemicals that are found in everyday items including food packaging, nonstick products, and stain repellent fabrics." PFAS chemicals build up in the human body over time and are not able to be broken down by the environment.

Janet Sasse, a senior scientist with the nonprofit National Resources Defense Council, spoke at the news conference, explain-

ing PFAS can be harmful, even in small quantities. "PFAS have been linked to cancer and other deadly diseases," she said.

Kildee and Dingell want PFAS guidelines to be included in the final National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2020. This would be an integral starting point in the beginning phases of cleanup operations at PFAS contamination sites, Dingell said. The guidelines would also hold accountable corporations designated as polluters for PFAS contamination by making further contamination against the law.

Dingell discussed three provisions to address PFAS chemicals in the House-passed NDAA. These amendments designate PFAS as a harmful and hazardous substance to human health. The designation would allow PFAS to be cleaned up under the EPA's Superfund Program, which is responsible for cleaning up the most contaminated land. The designation would also ban the use of PFAS chemicals and materials used to manufacture the military's Meals Ready to Eat and require military installations to cooperate with state governments when PFAS contamination is detected on the facilities.

Kildee is the founder and co-chairman of the PFAS Task Force, a bipartisan congressional group that works to educate the public and create legislation to address PFAS contamination in the United States. The task force works with members of Congress to address the PFAS public health threat. The House NDAA included several provisions that would



A sign at Clark's Marsh in Michigan warns of fish contaminated with chemicals leaching from the former Wurtsmith Air Force Base.

set aside money for cleanup and take preventative measures from further PFAS contamination.

The provisions include phasing out the use of PFAS in firefighting foam by 2025, boosting funding for the national Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's nationwide health study on PFAS, provide the U.S. Geological Survey with \$5 million to conduct a nationwide sampling for PFAS in the environment and require the Government Accountability Office to review the Department of Defense's response to PFAS contamination in and around military bases.

fotre.n@allstripes.com
Twitter: @Neil_Fotre

Army mulls restricting eligibility for burial at Arlington Cemetery

By NIKKI WENTLING
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — The Army is proposing to restrict eligibility criteria for burial at Arlington National Cemetery in a move to extend its use as an active cemetery well into the future, acting Secretary of the Army Ryan McCarthy announced Wednesday.

Under rules now, most veterans and military retirees are eligible for either above- or below-ground burial in Arlington. The Army will begin a monthslong rule-making process to change the criteria.

The Army proposed restricting below-ground burial in the Virginia cemetery to servicemembers killed in action, Purple Heart recipients, former prisoners of war, presidents and vice presidents, combat veterans who were awarded the Silver Star or above, servicemembers who had combat-related deaths and combat veterans who also served as government officials and "made significant contributions to the nation's security at the highest levels of public service." Arlington also would reserve 1,000 plots for Medal of Honor recipients.

Under the proposal, above-ground interment would be available to World War II veterans, armed forces retirees, combat veterans who served two years on active duty and veterans without combat service who worked as government officials and contributed to national security.

A spokesman for the cemetery said the Army couldn't comment on the details of the proposed criteria until they were posted to the

Federal Register. The rule-making process is expected to take at least nine months.

"The hard reality is we are running out of space," said Karen Durham-Aguilera, director of the cemetery. "To keep Arlington National Cemetery open and active well into the future means we have to make some tough decisions that restrict the eligibility."

Last September, the cemetery opened a 27-acre expansion, which had been in the works since the 1990s. Another project, the Southern Expansion, is in the planning stages and would add 37 acres to the cemetery. Even with the extra acres, Arlington National Cemetery is expected to reach capacity in the mid-2050s.

The National Defense Authorization Act approved by Congress for fiscal year 2019 ordered the secretary of the Army to develop new criteria for burial at Arlington — restrictions that would allow it to remain an active cemetery for the next 150 years.

The Federal Advisory Committee on Arlington National Cemetery, which includes a Medal of Honor recipient, military retirees, military families and former members of Congress, began discussing new eligibility criteria last month. The rule-making process will include a period of public comment, during which the Army will collect more feedback.

"This is a lengthy process, but it's another opportunity to have a say in what the future of Arlington National Cemetery should be for our nation," Durham-Aguilera said in a statement.

wentling.nikki@allstripes.com
Twitter: @nikkiwentling

GAO will review rating system for VA nursing homes

By ROSE L. THAYER
Stars and Stripes

AUSTIN, Texas — The Government Accountability Office will examine how the Department of Veterans Affairs rates its nursing homes at the request of three senators, who announced the upcoming review Monday.

Sens. Edward J. Markey, D-Mass.; Elizabeth Warren, D-Mass.; and Jon Tester, D-Mont., who is the ranking member of the Senate Committee on Veterans Affairs, sent a letter to the GAO with the request in August following a number of "reports indicating poor quality ratings as well as disturbing anecdotal stories of substandard treatment and conditions at some" nursing homes over the years.

The VA refers to the facilities as community living centers because they are not solely intended for end-of-life care but are also a place to recover from surgery or a mental health crisis or to receive respite care. The VA operates more than 100 of the facilities

ties across the country.

The senators asked the accountability office for a review in August, before this month's revelations of an ant infestation at the VA's Atlanta nursing home.

Officials at the Eagle's Nest Community Living Center in the Atlanta VA Medical Center confirmed that three veterans were bitten by ants that had infested rooms in the facility. One veteran, a man who had been bitten more than 100 times in the days before he died. The incident led to disciplinary action for nine employees, including the removal of two leaders at the southeast regional level.

The Atlanta nursing home isn't the only facility encountering bugs. The Northern Arizona VA Health Care System's community living center in Prescott had a bout with bedbugs this month, according to an internal email from the system's director.

"Bedbugs can occur in any hospital," director Barbara Oencke wrote on Sept. 16. She advised employees to follow their local

policy on encountering bedbugs and to call in-house pest control to allow the facility's "professional team of experts to treat and exterminate" the bedbugs.

Three of the bugs were found in two rooms earlier this month, according to Mary Dillinger, spokeswoman for the Prescott VA. Staff immediately "reported the incident to pest control officials, who followed protocol by conducting preventive measures throughout the hospital and resolving the issue," she said. "No patients were found with bedbugs on their person, and this incident did not negatively affect patient care in any way."

When the VA first released star-rating data in 2018, nearly half of the nation's centers were rated one-star, the lowest rank, according to the senators' statement. The latest data has shown improvement in the ratings.

The VA, however, refuted the senators' information. The agency said its own data shows only 11 community living centers had the one-star rating at that time, based

on various factors including nurse staffing and unannounced inspections. The VA data showed the majority of facilities had a rating of three or five stars.

"We appreciate that many community living centers care for a disproportionately complex resident population with multiple chronic and difficult conditions," Markey, Tester and Warren said in the statement. "But public concerns and reporting underscore the need to ensure [community living centers] have the tools, resources and properly trained staff necessary to provide the quality nursing home care our veterans need and deserve."

The VA welcomes the GAO's oversight, said Susan Carter, spokeswoman for the department.

"Like any health care provider — including those in the private sector — VA nursing homes sometimes encounter isolated problems, and when we find them, we fix them," she said. "But overall, VA nursing home system compares closely with private sec-

tor nursing homes, though the department on average cares for sicker and more complex patients than do private facilities. Many of our patients carry the wounds of war."

The rating system used for VA nursing homes is an adapted version of Medicare's five-star methodology based on health surveys, staffing and quality of resident care measures. The health surveys and star ratings are available on the VA's website, as well as a map to compare the ratings with those of nearby facilities.

When comparing the community living centers with non-VA facilities rated by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, VA has a lower number of low-performing facilities and a higher number of high-performing facilities, Carter said.

In a letter to Tester's office, the GAO said a staff member should begin reviewing the rating system in about four months.

thayer.rose@allstripes.com
Twitter: @Rose_Lori

NATION

Impeachment: Trump's Ukraine dealings prompted call for probe

FROM FRONT PAGE

Trump, who thrives on combat, has all but dared Democrats to move toward impeachment, confident that the specter of an investigation led by the opposition party will bolster rather than diminish his political support.

"Just so you understand, it's the single greatest witch hunt in American history, probably in history," Trump said during a meeting with foreign leaders in New York.

Republicans largely stood by the president and dismissed the notion that the rough transcript revealed any wrongdoing by Trump.

"I think it was a perfectly appropriate phone call; it was a congratulatory phone call," said Rep. Liz Cheney, the No. 3 House Republican. "The Democrats continually make these huge claims and allegations about President Trump, and then you find out there's no there there."

The call is one part of a whistleblower complaint on the president's activities, though the administration has blocked Congress from getting other details of the report, citing presidential privilege.

The complaint was being reviewed for classified material and could go to Congress by Thursday, according to a person familiar with the issue who was not authorized to discuss it publicly and spoke on condition of anonymity.

In the rough transcript of the 30-minute phone call with Zelenskyy, Trump encourages the Ukrainian leader to talk with Giuliani and Barr. Immediately after saying they would be in touch, Trump references Ukraine's economy, saying: "Your economy is going to get better and better I predict. You have a lot of assets. It's a great country."

In the days before the call, Trump ordered advisers to freeze \$400 million in military aid for Ukraine — prompting speculation that he was holding out the money as leverage for information on the Bidens. Trump has denied that charge and the aid package does not come up in the conversation with Zelenskyy.

Trump has sought to implicate Biden and his son in the kind of corruption that has long plagued Ukraine. Hunter Biden served on the board of a Ukrainian gas company at the same time his father was leading the Obama administration's dip-

lomatic dealings with Kyiv. Though the timing raised concerns among anti-corruption advocates, there has been no evidence of wrongdoing by either the former vice president or his son.

Biden said Tuesday, before Pelosi's announcement, that if Trump doesn't cooperate with lawmakers' demands for documents and testimony in its investigations the president "will leave Congress ... with no choice but to initiate impeachment." He said that would be a tragedy of Trump's "own making."

While the possibility of impeachment has hung over Trump for many months, the likelihood of a probe had faded after special counsel Robert Mueller's Trump-Russia investigation ended without a clear directive for lawmakers.

Since then, the House committees have revisited aspects of the Mueller probe while also launching new inquiries into Trump's businesses and various administration scandals that all seemed likely to drag on for months.

But details of Trump's dealings with Ukraine prompted Democrats to quickly shift course. By the time Pelosi announced the probe, about two-thirds of House Democrats had announced support for moving toward impeachment probes.

The burden will probably now shift to Democrats to make the case to a scandal-weary public. In a highly polarized Congress, an impeachment inquiry could simply showcase how clearly two sides can disagree when shown the same evidence rather than approach consensus.

On Wednesday, the Democratic-controlled House is expected to consider a symbolic but still notable resolution insisting the Trump administration turn over to Congress the whistleblower's complaint. The Republican-led Senate, in a rare bipartisan moment, unanimously approved a similar resolution Tuesday.

The lawyer for the whistleblower, who is still anonymous, released a statement saying he had asked Trump's director of national intelligence to turn over the complaint to House committees and asked guidance to permit the whistleblower to meet with lawmakers.

What you need to know about the impeachment inquiry

BY AMBER PHILLIPS

The Washington Post

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., announced a formal impeachment inquiry of President Donald Trump. Here's what you need to know about what impeachment is and how it works, starting with the basics.

What does impeachment actually mean? It means that Congress thinks the president is no longer fit to serve and should be removed from office. Here's what the Constitution says: "The President, Vice President and all civil Officers of the United States, shall be removed from Office on Impeachment for, and Conviction of, Treason, Bribery, or other high Crimes and Misdemeanors."

Who can impeach the president? Congress. Specifically,

the House of Representatives. Under the framework of the Constitution, the House can vote to impeach a president for "high crimes and misdemeanors." It's up to the House to decide what that means.

But impeaching the president is not the same thing as removing the president from office. For that, the Senate holds a trial presided over by the chief justice of the United States. Two presidents in American history have been impeached (Andrew Johnson and Bill Clinton). One resigned under threat of impeachment (Richard Nixon). None have been actually removed from office.

What is the process for an impeachment inquiry? Pelosi said Tuesday that the six key committees that are already investigating the president will continue

to investigate Trump "under that umbrella of impeachment inquiry." If the investigations conclude there are reasons for impeachment, the Judiciary Committee will draw up articles of impeachment, and the Judiciary Committee and then the full House will vote on it.

Here's how Judiciary Committee Chairman Jerrold Nadler, D-N.Y., summed up the process in August to CNN, when he decided his committee was launching an impeachment inquiry: "We are investigating all the evidence, gathering the evidence. And we will [at the] conclusion of this — hopefully by the end of the year — vote to vote articles of impeachment to the House floor. Or we won't. That's a decision that we'll have to make. But that's exactly the process we're in right



J. SCOTT APPLEWHITE/AP

House Republican Leader Kevin McCarthy, D-Calif., joined, from left, by Rep. Jim Jordan, R-Ohio; Rep. Liz Cheney, R-Wyo.; and Rep. Doug Collins, R-Georgia, critics of House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., and the Democrats for launching a formal impeachment inquiry against President Donald Trump on Wednesday.

New poll shows limited support for removing Trump from office

BY JOHN WAGNER

The Washington Post

Amid a groundswell of support for impeachment proceedings among House Democrats, a new poll finds a majority of Americans do not favor ousting President Donald Trump from office.

Thirty-seven percent of voters say that Trump should be impeached and removed from office, while 57% say he should not be impeached, according to a Quinnipiac University poll released Wednesday morning.

The poll was conducted from Thursday through Monday, as details were emerging about Trump's July call with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy in which Trump acknowledged he asked Zelenskyy to investigate former vice president Joe Biden and his son.

That revelation prompted a rush of moderate House Democrats to call for an impeachment inquiry into Trump, a step they had resisted for months. On Tuesday, House Speaker Nancy Pelosi,

D-Calif., announced the launch of official proceedings, accusing Trump of violating the Constitution in seeking help from a foreign leader to damage a political opponent.

The poll shows a stark partisan divide on the question of impeachment. Among Democrats, 73% support impeachment, while 21% are opposed. Among Republicans, only 4% support impeachment, while 95% are opposed.

Trump's overall job approval rating remains in the range it has for nearly his entire presidency, with 40% of voters approving of how he is handling his job and 55% saying they disapprove.

The poll shows Trump remains popular among Republicans and faces no significant threat from his three GOP primary challengers. Among Republican voters, he has 80% support, while none of the three challengers has more than 2%.

The poll is said to have a margin of error of plus or minus 3.2 percentage points.

now."

So the House was already in an impeachment inquiry?

Yes. Well, kind of. It depends on whom you ask. Nadler's committee has charge over impeachment, and he surprised some of his members this summer when he publicly said they've started an inquiry. Pelosi was not supportive of this and as recently as last week wouldn't say "impeachment inquiry" publicly. But the allegations facing Trump on Ukraine changed her mind.

How long does the impeachment process take? It can be as long or as short as the House wants. As The Washington Post's Aaron Blake notes, if past is precedent, this could be wrapped up in four months. But Democrats probably are on a tight timeline here; politically, it could be much

more difficult to make their case that impeachment is necessary if it's 2020 and nearing an election in which Trump could get thrown out of office anyway.

Will the Senate remove Trump from office? As it stands now, probably not. There's no evidence the Republican-controlled Senate wants to confront Trump in such a way. In fact, on Monday, Senate Republicans were trying to defend Trump. It's up to House Democrats to uncover something that could change Republicans' minds.

Could Trump run in 2020 even if he's impeached?

If he's impeached by the House, yes. If he's removed from office, well, that's never happened before, so we'd probably all be armchair-interpreting the Constitution to figure that one out.

NATION

Dems' clash with Trump has new legal framework

By MICHAEL SCHERER
The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — The Democratic decision to launch an impeachment inquiry of President Donald Trump on Tuesday pushed a strained nation to a new political brink, activating for the fourth time in history the U.S. Constitution's most critical fail-safe with no certainty about where it will take the country.

After years of circling each other in an increasingly bitter political clash, **ANALYSIS** Trump and his Democratic opponents will now find themselves locked in a legal process designed to remove from power elected leaders who have betrayed the public trust. Both sides committed to emerge victorious from the fight.

"I can't tell you what will come from this. I don't think anybody can," said Dan Sena, who was executive director of the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee in 2018. "But it is definitely going to be an X-factor going into the 2020 election."

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., spent much of the year beating back impeachment calls in her party, warning that a partisan process would be in her words, "so divisive" and "not worth it." As she told her colleagues in 2018, on the way to winning back control of the House, "You can't get in a tinkle contest with a skunk."

But on Tuesday, she announced that everything had changed. Recent revelations about Trump's efforts to pressure the president of Ukraine to help find dirt that would aid his own reelection were a "betrayal of his office." She was ready to take the leap.

Use any metaphor you want: Crossing the Rubicon, a sea fact est, a new territory, a new day has dawned," she said, evoking the Latin phrase for "the die is cast," reportedly uttered by Julius Caesar in 49 B.C.

Pelosi's dramatic declaration may go down in history as an understatement.

Presidential impeachment is enshrined in clear terms in the founding documents, but its use in practice has less in common with a typical legal proceeding than with an atomic weapon, potentially setting off chain reactions that can dominate the nation's attention for weeks, ripple through the political system for years and shift electoral outcomes in unexpected ways. That calculus is further complicated by the extraordinary nature of Trump, a rule-bending, norm-breaking spectacle of a leader, who has thrived by es-

calating conflicts even when the facts are not on his side. His 2020 reelection campaign, premised on the notion that liberal elites, Democrats and the media are conspiring against the American people, is no certainty to prompt a new rallying cry.

"PRESIDENTIAL HARASSMENT" he tweeted concisely Tuesday afternoon. Within hours, his campaign put out a call for donors to give to his "Impeachment Defense Team."

Although impeachment proceedings reflect America's democratic system working as it was designed, to determine if a president accused of crimes should be removed from office, Trump and his allies are expected to use every tool at their disposal to test the very foundations of that system, just as they have done since his earliest days in office.

Only three times before has the House formally pursued a president's impeachment. President Andrew Johnson's 1868 acquittal by the Senate ended the tumultuous aftermath of the Civil War, reshaped the relationship between Congress and the presidency.

President Richard Nixon's decision to resign in 1974 rather than undergo impeachment sparked years of government reform and the election of Democratic President Jimmy Carter in 1976.

A voter backlash against the impeachment of President Bill Clinton, who was also not removed from office by the Senate, led to Democratic gains in the House in 1998 and the resignation of Republican Speaker Newt Gingrich.

As in each of those cases, Democrats now have little hope of Trump's removal from office by the Senate if they impeach him in the House. Republicans control the upper chamber, which would have to convict him by a two-thirds margin. Since the disclosures about Ukraine, only a single Republican, Sen. Mitt Romney, of Utah, has gone so far as to call the president's actions potentially



ALEX BRANNAN/AP

Since the disclosures about Ukraine, only a single Republican, Utah Sen. Mitt Romney, above, has gone so far as to call President Donald Trump's actions potentially "troubling in the extreme."

"troubling in the extreme."

The remaining senators are no match for responding to Trump's powerful sway with their own constituents and public polls from this summer that showed a majority of the country opposing an impeachment inquiry after a report by special counsel Robert Mueller laid out evidence that Trump may have repeatedly sought to obstruct justice.

Democratic consultants and pollsters focused on House and Senate races have been warning for months that a pursuit of impeachment following the Mueller inquiry could allow Republicans to claim that Democrats are partisans not focused on the concerns of voters. Interviews with several of the party's top pollsters and consultants Tuesday revealed that the concerns had not faded.

But the advisers also said there was reason to believe polling would shift in coming months, as Democratic voters united behind their party and details of Trump's conversations with Ukraine were known to the public.

The potential national security implications have also pushed several more moderate Democratic members to support impeachment in recent days, despite the political risks that have been laid out to them by advisers.

"I have a lot of moderate and Blue Dog clients who are looking at it through the prism of principle, not through the prism of politics. And that is a freight train," said another Democratic pollster, who spoke on the condition of anonymity to discuss private conversations.

Republican election strategists, meanwhile, have been celebrating the potential impact an impeachment could have on their own voters in 2020 elections.

"There is nothing that will do more for Republican turnout than this. And the last couple of presidential elections have all been turnout elections," said Jim McLaughlin, a Republican pollster working on the Trump reelection effort. "It's always thought Mitt Romney was smarter than this. It's crazy."

Impeachment move triggers caution and calculation overseas

By RICK NOACK
AND DAVID CRAWSHAW
The Washington Post

The world reacted warily to news that President Donald Trump would face impeachment proceedings, with some experts saying it would have little effect on hot-button issues such as the trade dispute with China or his promises on Brexit, while others predicted that increased domestic pressure would force Trump to seek a quick foreign policy breakthrough.

With Washington in an entrenched state of partisan division and the Trump administration's relations with allies and adversaries mired in mistrust, experts said the specter of further U.S. political paralysis would have minimal immediate impact globally.

Here is how people around the world assessed the latest U.S. political shootout, which Trump derided as a "witch hunt" and "harassment" by House Democrats.

China: Impeachment proceedings are likely to take a long time, so they will have very little impact, if any, on the trade talks with China, said Yao Xinchao, a professor of trade at the University of International Business and Economics in Beijing.

"The onset of Trump getting impeached by the end of 2019 are very slim," Yao said. "Of course, Trump getting reelected would further dim the prospects for China-U.S. relations. It would reinforce his conviction that taking a hard line against China pays off and allow him to cast off his already ready misgivings in making irresponsible decisions."

Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Geng Shuang declined to respond to the impeachment news, telling reporters that it was "an internal matter for the United States."

Germany and France: After more than two years, many continental Europeans have grown weary of talk of impeaching Trump, even if they may support it.

In France, the tone of coverage mostly played up the uncertainty of the proceedings at this early stage.

"The United States is engaged in the unknown," the prominent French daily *Le Monde* wrote in the lead of its story on the impeachment inquiry.

In continental Europe, few would miss Trump as president.

"All parties apart from the (far-right) AfD party would be jolly glad if the Trump presidency was over," said Stephan Bierling, an international politics professor at the University of Regensburg in Germany in an email. "The faster, the better."

But Bierling also acknowledged that some of the reasons for continental Europe's welcoming stance toward possible impeachment proceedings were debat-

able. Some of Trump's criticism of Europe—including his attacks on Germany over its low defense spending—has been backed by analysts. German leaders may hope that post-Trump, it might become easier again for them to "duck again," Bierling said.

Britain: In Britain, the announcement of an impeachment inquiry was largely overshadowed by the historic ruling of the United Kingdom's Supreme Court on Tuesday that Prime Minister Boris Johnson's suspension of Parliament was unlawful.

"[Many] people see so many parallels between Trump and Johnson as populist, would-be strongmen who flout the rules and seem to get away with it—at least until now," Tim Bale, a professor of politics at Queen Mary University of London, said in an email.

South Korea: In this U.S.-allied East Asian country, experts said that domestic pressure on Trump might spur him to seek a quick resolution on North Korea.

"His engagement with North Korea has produced achievements that are highly visible. He could turn to a diplomatic event with North Korea to divert attention away from domestic political challenges," said Kim Yong-hyun, professor of North Korean studies at Dongguk University in Seoul.

ABC
your TRAVEL SERVICE

Cheapest fares



+49 621 72920

www.abctravel.de



ABC Travel Service e.K., Gönneheimstr. 9, 68309 Mannheim

‘I have a lot of moderate and Blue Dog clients who are looking at it through the prism of principle, not through the prism of politics. And that is a freight train.’

unamed Democratic pollster

NATION

Rouhani slams US 'economic terrorism'

By AYA BATRAWY
Associated Press

UNITED NATIONS — Iran's president accused the United States of "merciless economic terrorism" Wednesday, using his U.N. speech to stress that security in the Persian Gulf can be guaranteed only when his nation's security is as well — and only with the involvement of Iran's neighbors.

President Hassan Rouhani told the U.N. General Assembly gathering that Iran would not negotiate on the issue of its nuclear program as long as sanctions remain in place.

"Our response to any negotiation under sanctions is negative," he said. He said Iran has "resisted the most merciless economic terrorism" from a nation that is engaging in "international piracy."

Iranian state television broadcast Rouhani's speech live across the country of 80 million people.

He spoke as his country's nuclear deal with world powers unravels under pressure from the Trump administration. Iran has turned back to expanding its nuclear enrichment program after President Donald Trump's decision last year to pull out of the accord and reimpose sanctions on Tehran, targeting its ability to export oil.

Rouhani's highly anticipated remarks at the U.N. came a day after Trump described Iran as "one of the greatest threats" to the planet.

The escalating crisis has raised concerns that direct conflict, with Iran at the center, could break out in the region — a scenario that all concerned parties, including Iran and Saudi Arabia, have stressed they want to avoid.

The United States has sent military reinforcements and beefed up its security presence in the Middle East in past months amid



CRAIG RUTTLE / AP

Iranian President Hassan Rouhani addresses the 74th session of the United Nations General Assembly on Wednesday, on a speech in which he accused the U.S. of "merciless economic terrorism."

the rising tensions with Iran.

Rouhani's manner during the speech was measured, but the words he delivered were ominous.

"Our region is on the edge of collapse, as a single blunder can fuel a big fire," he said.

The region will become secure when U.S. troops withdraw, he said.

Rouhani spent much time appealing to Iran's neighbors, saying that their destinies are intertwined and they should consider each other rather than pinning their hopes on the involvement of the United States.

"Security shall not be supplied with American weapons and intervention," he said. "Security cannot be purchased or supplied by foreign governments."

Rouhani's remarks come as the U.S. and its allies accuse Iran of being behind a major drone and missile strike on Saudi Arabia's key oil sites earlier this month. Iran has denied any involvement and says any strikes by

the U.S. or Saudi Arabia will lead to "all-out war."

The Sept. 14 attack followed months of lower-level attacks on oil tankers and the shooting down of a U.S. surveillance drone over the Strait of Hormuz. The U.S. and its regional allies blame those attacks on Iran, which it also denies.

Trump, speaking at the U.N. on Tuesday, left open the possibility of diplomatic engagement with Iran. That was the same day that Rouhani insisted that he'd consider meeting only after sanctions against his country are lifted.

But as he ended his General Assembly speech, Rouhani suggested there was still some room for diplomacy.

"This is the message of the Iranian nation: Let's invest on hope toward a better future rather than on war and violence," he said. "Let's return to justice, to peace, to law, commitment and promise and finally to the negotiating table."

US slams UN over abortion

The Washington Post

The Trump administration declared that there's no "international right to abortion" at a United Nations meeting in New York this week, calling on other countries to join a coalition pushing the elimination of what it calls "ambiguous" terms and expressions, such as sexual and reproductive health, from U.N. documents.

"We remain gravely concerned that aggressive efforts to reinterpret international instruments to create a new international right to abortion and to promote international policies that weaken the family have advanced through some United Nations forums," Health and Human Services Secretary Alex Azar and Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said in a letter circulated in advance of the gathering.

Earlier this year, HHS officials began meeting with representatives from other countries, urging them to join a new international coalition that would focus on the value of "the family," and which would not condone harmful sexual risks for young people or promote abortion as a means of family planning.

Other countries, civil society and women's rights groups have expressed alarm at the efforts and accused the United States of aligning with countries like Saudi Arabia and Sudan with poor human rights records and of putting unfair pressure on poor countries that depend on U.S. aid.

Numerous country representatives protested their objections to U.S. statement under the hashtag #SRHR — sexual and reproductive health and rights, the very language the United States has sought to erase from U.N. documents.

Sweden's minister for International Development Cooperation tweeted that the action was "unbelievable news," and that "women's rights must be protected at all times."

The Netherlands' Sigrid Kaag, minister of foreign trade, spoke out in a competing joint statement issued on behalf of 58 countries. While she did not use the word abortion, she repeatedly stressed the need to uphold the full range of sexual and reproductive rights.

Francoise Girard, president of the International Women's Health Coalition, said "sexual and reproductive rights are human rights, and are enshrined in UN agreements for almost 25 years now."

The Trump administration's position is extreme and its repeated attempts to strip women, girls, and gender-diverse people of their rights at the United Nations have failed," Girard said.

Antiabortion groups, meanwhile, praised the statement as a sign of the administration's "strong pro-life leadership on the world stage."

Ukraine's leader avoids controversy in speech

By JENNIFER PELTZ
Associated Press

UNITED NATIONS — Abruptly came into the center of a political storm in the United States, Ukraine's president steered clear of the controversy Wednesday as he made his debut speech on diplomacy's biggest stage, focusing instead on the horrors of war and on his country's ongoing conflict with Russia.

Volodymyr Zelenskyy's address at the U.N. General Assembly came less than a day after a formal U.S. House impeachment inquiry into President Donald Trump was launched — a development that was sparked partly by a July 25 phone call between the two leaders.

Zelenskyy made no mention of

the matter as he called for wide international support for his country, five years after Russia annexed Ukraine's Crimean Peninsula and Moscow threw its weight behind separatists fighting in the eastern part of his country. He warned that in an interconnected world, "there is no more 'somebody else's war.'"

"Every leader bears his share of responsibility not only for the destiny of his own country but for the whole world," said Zelenskyy, who at one point held up a bullet to decry violence and made references to the classic World War I novels "All Quiet on the Western Front" and "A Farewell to Arms."

"Today, it depends on everyone here whether there will be life at all," Zelenskyy said.

Barely 100 days into his tenure, Zelenskyy is in a delicate spot after the phone call with Trump, the leader of one of Ukraine's most steadfast allies. The two were due to meet on the sidelines of the assembly later Wednesday.

At issue is whether the Republican Trump abused his presidential powers and sought help from Ukraine to undermine a Democratic foe, former Vice President Joe Biden, and help his own reelection.

Trump repeatedly pressed Zelenskyy to investigate Biden, according to a rough transcript summarizing the call released Wednesday. The phone call came days after Trump ordered advisers to freeze \$400 million in military aid for Ukraine, prompting speculation that he was holding

up the money as leverage for information on Biden.

Trump has denied that the funds were blocked as leverage for information on the Biden and his son, Hunter, and says he did nothing wrong, calling the matter a "witch hunt."

In a TV interview over the weekend, Ukraine's foreign minister denied Zelenskyy was pressured to investigate Hunter Biden. Zelenskyy's office has declined to comment on the reports.

The United States has given Ukraine millions of dollars in aid since a pro-Western government took power in Kyiv in 2014.

Zelenskyy, 41, a popular comedian with no political experience, unseated incumbent Petro Poroshenko in an election this year in the nation of 45 million people.

NATION



MARY ALTAFFER/AP

Swedish climate activist Greta Thunberg speaks to Australian businessman Andrew Forrest as she arrives for a briefing focused on the release of a United Nations-affiliated report on oceans and ice on Wednesday in New York.

International climate report: Oceans rising faster, melting more ice, snow

By SETH BORENSTEIN
Associated Press

NEW YORK — Due to climate change, the world's oceans are getting warmer, rising higher, losing oxygen and becoming more acidic at an ever-faster pace and melting even more ice and snow, a grim international science assessment concludes.

But that's nothing compared with what Wednesday's special United Nations-affiliated oceans and ice report says is coming if global warming doesn't slow down: three feet of sea rise by the end of the century, many fewer fish, weakening ocean currents, even less snow and ice, stronger and wetter hurricanes and nastier El Niño weather systems.

"The oceans and the icy parts of the world are in big trouble, and that means we're all in big trouble too," said one of the report's lead authors, Michael Oppenheimer, professor of geosciences and international affairs at Princeton University. "The changes are accelerating."

These changes will not just hurt the 71% of the world covered by ice and snow, but it will harm people, plants, animals, food, societies, infrastructure and the global economy, according to the special report by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change.

The oceans absorb more than 90% of the excess heat from carbon pollution in the air, as well as much of the carbon dioxide itself. The seas warm more slowly than the air but trap the heat longer, with bigger side effects — and the report links those waters with Earth's snow and ice, called the cryosphere, because their futures are interconnected.

"The world's oceans and cryosphere have been taking the heat for climate change for decades. The consequences for nature and humanity are sweeping and severe," said Ko Barrett, vice chair of the IPCC and a deputy assistant administrator for research at the U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

The report found:

■ Seas are now rising at one-seventh of an inch a year, which is 2.5 times faster than the rate from 1900 to 1990.

■ The world's oceans have already lost 1% to 3% of the oxygen in their upper levels since 1970 and will lose more as warming continues.

■ From 2006 to 2015, the ice melting from Greenland, Antarctica and the world's mountain glaciers has accelerated and is now losing 720 billion tons of ice a year.

■ Arctic June snow cover has shrunk more than half since 1967, down nearly 1 million square miles.

■ Arctic sea ice in September, the annual minimum, is down almost 13% per decade since 1979. This year's low, reported Monday, tied for the second-lowest on record.

For the first time, the international team of scientists is projecting that "some island nations are likely to become uninhabitable due to climate-related ocean and cryosphere change."

Trump's Senate allies give OK to \$5B wall request

By ANDREW TAYLOR
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump's Senate GOP allies are pushing to give him his full \$5 billion request to build about 200 miles of fencing along the U.S.-Mexico border, but the plan ran into immediate opposition from Democrats and is a nonstarter with House Speaker Nancy Pelosi.

The wall money is contained in a \$71 billion draft funding bill for the Department of Homeland Security that cleared its first, easiest hurdle in a Senate panel on Tuesday. Senate Homeland Security Appropriations Chairwoman Shelley Moore Capito, R-W.Va., announced the \$5 billion figure.

The money faces an uphill slog. Tuesday's subcommittee vote was routine but a heated debate awaits on Thursday when the legislation is voted on in the full Appropriations Committee, where Democrats promise votes to cut the wall funding back.

Trump won \$1.4 billion earlier this year through the regular budget process. He almost immediately declared a national emergency that triggered his ability to conduct a recently announced \$3.6 billion transfer from military base construction. If the \$5 billion is added to prior-year appropriations and various transfers from the Pentagon, Trump would have obtained almost \$15 billion for the wall.

The new GOP-backed money comes after Trump roiled Capitol Hill by transferring \$6.1 billion from Pentagon accounts to get around lawmakers opposed to his border wall. Some \$3.6 billion of the wall money is coming through Trump's controversial emergency declaration earlier this year, which permitted him to raise military construction projects such as schools and target

ranges to finance the wall.

"There is a line here that I believe has been overstepped," said GOP Sen. Lisa Murkowski, of Alaska. "It is in this committee that we determine what the appropriation level will be for the wall."

Sen. Jon Tester, D-Mont., said the border wall is a "gross waste of taxpayer dollars."

The Senate was slated to vote Wednesday on a Democratic measure to nullify Trump's emergency powers. An identical bill passed Congress earlier this year but was successfully vetoed by Trump.

If Republicans stand with President Trump, they will be saying they fully support allowing the president to take money from our military to fund the border wall," said Minority Leader Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y.

Tuesday's legislation also would fund 52,000 detention beds for immigrants entering the country illegally, a panel aide said, which is higher than current funding but is roughly equal to the levels presently permitted after the Trump administration used transfer powers to finance additional beds.

Capito said the border wall and detention beds are "two areas where Republicans and Democrats can't seem to agree."

The homeland security measure is one of four bills slated for initial committee votes this week. But floor action is on hold after Democrats filibustered a huge funding package last week that was anchored by an almost \$700 billion Pentagon funding bill. Democrats vow that the defense measure, which is a top priority of Trump and his GOP allies, won't advance until there is bipartisan progress on domestic spending measures that they particularly care about.

Ex-Flynn business partner sees convictions tossed out

Associated Press

ALEXANDRIA, Va. — A federal judge on Tuesday tossed out convictions against a one-time business partner of former national security adviser Michael Flynn who was accused of acting as a Turkish foreign agent.

U.S. District Judge Anthony Trenga ruled that the evidence against Bijan Kian was insufficient to sustain a conviction even though a jury convicted him at a

trial earlier this year.

The case spun off from special counsel Robert Mueller's investigation of Russian election interference. Prosecutors alleged Kian and Flynn were acting at Turkey's behest when they undertook a project to discredit an exiled cleric wanted by Turkey's government.

Trenga also ordered that Kian should be granted a new trial in the event that an appeals court reverses his decision.

Stone loses bid to get evidence tossed

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — A judge has denied Trump confidant Roger Stone's efforts to suppress evidence in the case against him, according to a court opinion made public Tuesday.

Stone is one of a half-dozen aides and advisers to President Donald Trump who were charged as part of special counsel Robert Mueller's Russia investigation. He is accused of lying to Congress, witness tampering and obstructing a congressional proceeding and is

set to stand trial in November in Washington's federal court.

Stone had asked a judge to throw out the evidence seized from 18 FBI search warrants.

Those warrants were based on the U.S. intelligence community's assessment that Russia had hacked Democratic email accounts and distributed stolen communications to WikiLeaks, which published the messages in the weeks before the 2016 election in which officials have said was an effort to help Trump and harm the campaign of his Demo-

cratic rival, Hillary Clinton.

Stone has challenged the accuracy of those conclusions and says the warrants used to search his devices and property were therefore invalid. He contends the private cybersecurity firm that investigated the hack of the Democratic National Committee failed to preserve evidence of the intrusion and that the intelligence community relied on the company's assumptions that Russia was behind the hack. Mueller's report also firmly concluded that Russia was behind the hack.

NATION

Police still seek motive in Virginia Beach shooting

By PETER COUTU,
ALISSA SKELTON
AND JANE HARPER
The Virginian-Pilot

VIRGINIA BEACH, Va. — Before anyone could call police, 10 people had been shot dead. Two more had been severely wounded.

Within minutes of the first 911 call, two more would end up dead and two would suffer serious injuries in the May 31 mass shooting in Virginia Beach's municipal complex.

After nearly four months of investigation, more than 750 interviews and thousands of hours of detective work, police still don't know why.

"We have asked the question 'Why. Why did this suspect do what he did?'" Police Deputy Chief Patrick Gallagher said. "We're still looking to determine motive."

Police cornered the shooter, DeWayne Craddock, 40, six minutes after they entered the building and shot multiple times through a wooden door, Gallagher said in a briefing Tuesday to the City Council and family members of the victims. The gunman was pronounced dead at a hospital a little over an hour after the rampage began.

Tuesday's update on the ongoing criminal investigation was the first time police revealed new information since June 3, when city leaders released the gunman's resignation letter.

The vacuum of information has left already reeling families starved for closure, with several

saying they can't fully grieve without knowing what led up to the tragedy and how it all unfolded. The city invited families and employees to view the update privately.

Nothing in Craddock's past hinted at the tragedy about to unfold. He hadn't been diagnosed with any mental illnesses and wasn't taking any prescription medications, the deputy chief said. He had about \$20,000 in his bank accounts and no credit card debt. He left no manifesto to explain his actions, had no social media accounts and no known group affiliations, Gallagher said.

There was no apparent pattern to those he targeted, Gallagher said. Six were women, 10 were men. Some were black, some were white. There were also people he encountered in the building that he chose not to fire at.

"He shot people he knew, he shot people he didn't know," the deputy chief said.

The only hint of what was to come was discovered in his computer history. He did a Google search for maps of Building 2 and the Municipal Center, police said.

Detectives have conducted nearly all the interviews that they plan to do. But they still have thousands of documents, emails and other information to scour before they complete their investigation, Gallagher said. It likely will be another six to nine months before it's done, he said.

Arnette Heintze, head of the Chicago firm leading the separate independent probe into the mass shooting, said Tuesday that

he expects to deliver a final report by Nov. 12.

After the briefing, families of three of the victims said the police update raised more questions than answers.

"It doesn't add up," said Jason Nixon, the husband of Kate Nixon, who was killed that day. "Nobody just wakes up in the morning and says, 'I'm going to kill people.' There is a buildup to what caused all of this."

On Tuesday, families were allowed to enter the site of the tragedy for the first time.

Virginia Beach Police Chief Jim Cervera and Capt. Theresa Orr, who is helping lead the investigation into the shooting, stood outside a side entrance to Building 2 about an hour before the briefing, waiting to escort another family.

They had already led two families inside, allowing them the chance to stand where their loved ones died months earlier. Cervera said it was a chance to provide some kind of relief, though he acknowledged there will never be complete closure after a violent death.

The family of Kate Nixon, the former city engineer who died in the shooting, went into Building 2 on Tuesday afternoon. Her husband, Jason, wrote a note to his wife on the wall.

"I will always love you. I will make sure the girls are taken care of. I will raise them the way you would want me to. Me and the girls will never forget you. You have always been there for us, and I will never quit until we get the truth of your murder."



Carlos Giusti/AP

A man uses a flour bag to protect himself from the rain in Yabucoa, Puerto Rico, on Tuesday. Tropical Storm Karen caused flooding and power outages when it hit the island.

Tropical storm dumps rain on Puerto Rico

Associated Press

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico — Authorities in Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands reported limited power outages, flooding and landslides as Tropical Storm Karen swirled away from the northeast Caribbean on Wednesday.

Schools remained closed in Puerto Rico, although government offices reopened. Meanwhile, everything reopened in the U.S. Virgin Islands except for offices and schools in St. John.

Crews also temporarily closed some coastal roads in southeastern Puerto Rico that flooded after Karen hit the island Tuesday, leaving up to 29,000 customers without power at one point. An islandwide outage was reported in neighboring St. Thomas on Tuesday morning, followed by smaller outages that afternoon.

Forecasters warned of more rain showers for Puerto Rico and

the U.S. Virgin Islands throughout Wednesday, but those were expected to dissipate by Thursday as Karen heads north.

The U.S. National Hurricane Center said the storm might slow and loop back toward the west by the weekend.

Karen was located about 155 miles north northeast of San Juan early Wednesday and was moving north at 14 mph.

Meanwhile, Jerry became a post-tropical cyclone and was expected to pass near Bermuda on Wednesday.

In addition, Lorenzo became the fifth Atlantic hurricane of the season and was projected to become a major hurricane by the end of the week, although it is not expected to affect the Caribbean. It was centered about 640 miles south-west of the southernmost Cape Verde Islands and had maximum sustained winds of 80 mph.

Deported Army veteran returns to US in bid to become citizen

Associated Press



ERIN HOOLEY, CHICAGO TRIBUNE/AP

CHICAGO — An Army veteran who was deported to Mexico in 2018 arrived back in Chicago on Tuesday for a final chance at becoming a U.S. citizen and living in the city he has called home since boyhood.

Federal immigration authorities granted Miguel Perez Jr. a two-week parole into the U.S. for an immigration hearing, according to his attorney. Perez, 41, has a green card as a permanent U.S. resident, but after serving time for a 2008 nonviolent drug conviction was deported last year.

Then last month, Illinois Gov. J.B. Pritzker issued a pardon, erasing the conviction and reviving Perez's chances to become a citizen.

"I'm speechless. I wish I could say a lot more but it's just, I'm choked up," a teary-eyed Perez said outside a church hours after landing in Chicago. "I'm so blessed to be here."

His immigration hearing was

set for Wednesday, but it's unknown when immigration officials will decide the case.

Perez's attorney, Chris Bergin, hoped for a speedy decision so Perez wouldn't have to return to Mexico after the 14 days are up.

Officials with U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services and U.S. Customs and Border Protection declined to comment, citing privacy laws.

Perez is among several deported military members who have been recently pardoned by Democratic governors. His case has received wide support, including from Sen. Tammy Duckworth, of Illinois, a veteran who said Tuesday that Perez should never be deported in the first place.

Perez was born in Mexico, but his family immigrated when he was a young child. His parents are naturalized U.S. citizens and his two children were born in the U.S.

He joined the Army in 2002 and served in Afghanistan where he suffered a brain injury and was

diagnosed with post-traumatic stress disorder.

It was the disorder, which caused crippling anxiety, that led him to the drug charge, according to Bergin. Perez wasn't able to immediately get medical care through a federal Veterans Administration hospital, so he turned to drugs.

In 2008, he was accused of giving cocaine to an undercover police officer. He pleaded guilty and spent seven years in prison and then was turned over to Immigration and Customs Enforcement, who detained him for two years. Perez was deported last year after failing to persuade a federal appeals court to block his removal.

Perez said he faced "dangerous" conditions while living in Tijuana, Mexico, after his deportation, but he didn't want to talk about it.

He also declined to discuss how he was managing PTSD, saying it was too personal.

Army veteran Miguel Perez Jr. is greeted by friends and family at a news conference Tuesday at Lincoln Methodist Church in Chicago. Perez, who was deported to Mexico in 2018, arrived back in Chicago on Tuesday for a final chance at becoming a U.S. citizen.

WORLD

Pakistan begins cleanup after earthquake

By ANJUM NAVEED
Associated Press

MIRPUR, Pakistan — Authorities began distributing tents, food and water among thousands of earthquake victims in Pakistan-held Kashmir on Wednesday as the death toll from a powerful magnitude 5.8 temblor that rocked a large swath of the country's northeast a day earlier jumped to 37, officials said.

Kashmir bore the brunt of Tuesday's quake in which hundreds of other people were injured. One person was killed in Jehlum, a city in northeastern Punjab province.

Fearing aftershocks, many spent the night in the open in the hardest hit areas in Mirpur, a district in Pakistan-held Kashmir where hundreds of homes and buildings were damaged, affecting thousands in the city of some 5 million residents.

Authorities said rescue work in quake-hit areas was completed and authorities were still assessing damages.

According to a military statement, army chief Gen. Qamar Javed Bajwa on Wednesday visited quake-affected areas in Kashmir.

Earlier, under cloudy skies, some residents complained they had not received any aid 24 hours after the quake rattled the region



Villagers walk alongside a damaged portion of a road Wednesday, the day after a powerful earthquake in Jattan near Mirpur in northeastern Pakistan.

and some were seen by an Associated Press reporter picking through ruined buildings. Others sat in shock as relatives and a small number of volunteers provided small amounts of food.

"I came out of the (office) build-

ing and a part of the roof collapsed on my head. I was injured on my head and back," resident Muhammad Mehmood said. "After receiving treatment, I came to my home and saw seven rooms of my house had collapsed but my fam-

ily members were safe."

Mehmood said he was frustrated at having to wait for assistance.

"You can see my damaged home. You can see other damaged homes — and is there any sign of

government help?" he said.

Government aid arrived in Mirpur after Mohammad Afzal, chairman of the National Disaster Management Authority, said tents, food and blankets should start reaching affected areas later Wednesday, adding, "Each and every quake victim will be looked after."

Afzal said doctors were treating hundreds of people, some of whom had received multiple injuries. Authorities in Mirpur were seen repairing a key road close to the earthquake's epicenter.

Earlier in the day, mourners buried the dead in Mirpur and nearby villages. Mirpur is in the mountainous Kashmir region, which is divided between Pakistan and neighboring India but claimed by both in its entirety.

"The shallow earthquake was [6 miles] deep, and that is why it caused so much damage in Mirpur in Kashmir," which isn't far from the quake's epicenter, meteorologist Muhammad Riaz said Tuesday.

The quake also rattled the capital, Islamabad, and parts of northwest Pakistan but caused no damage there.

Pakistan is prone to violent seismic upheavals. A magnitude 7.6 quake in 2005 killed thousands of people in Pakistan and Kashmir.

Lawmakers squabble with government over suspension in Britain

By DANICA KIRKA
AND JILL LAWLESS
Associated Press

LONDON — British lawmakers returned to the House of Commons on Wednesday, venting their pent-up anger over Prime Minister Boris Johnson's failed attempt to suspend Parliament and warning that democracy itself is under threat from the government.

Senior officials in Johnson's government sparred with lawmakers of all parties on their first day back after Britain's Supreme Court decision declared that the prime minister's move to suspend the body for five weeks was illegal because it thwarted debate over Brexit.

Johnson planned to address Parliament later in the day after returning in haste from the U.N. General Assembly in New York.

Johnson remains on a collision course with Parliament over his determination to pull Britain out of the European Union on Oct. 31 with or without a withdrawal agreement.

Parliament has passed a law requiring him to seek a Brexit extension if there is no deal, but Johnson has said he won't do that under any circumstances. Johnson has begun to position himself as the champion of the people facing a recalcitrant establishment bent on frustrating the 2016 Brexit vote.

Johnson's attorney general, Geoffrey Cox, called Parliament a "disgrace" and tried to bait it into voting for a no-confidence motion on Johnson's government and triggering an early election. He said Parliament would be "too cowardly" to do that.

"The Parliament should have the courage to face the electorate, but it won't, because so many of them are really all about preventing us leaving the Euro-



FRANK AUGUSTEIN/AP

A protester wearing a crown participates in a demonstration of pro- and anti-Brexit supporters outside the Houses of Parliament in London on Wednesday as lawmakers returned following a failed attempt to suspend Parliament.

pean Union," Cox told lawmakers. "But the time is coming. The time is coming, Mr. Speaker, when even these turkeys won't be able to prevent Christmas."

Opposition Labour Party lawmaker Barry Sheeran accused Cox of having "no shame at all." Former Cabinet minister Amber Rudd urged Cox to "cease this language of pitting Parliament against the people."

"This Parliament was elected in 2017. It reflects the divisions in this country, the divisions in our communities and the divisions in our families," Rudd said.

After the court ruling Tuesday, Johnson had brushed aside questions about whether he would resign. He said he "strongly" disagreed with the court decision and even suggested he might try to suspend Parliament for a second time.

Ex-president's brother is 1 of 7 guilty in Algerian plot

By AOMAR OUALI
Associated Press

ALGIERS, Algeria — A military court in Algeria on Wednesday sentenced the brother of the country's longtime former leader and two ex-intelligence chiefs to 15 years in prison for plotting against the state.

The overnight ruling against men who once wielded immense power in Africa's largest country represents another blow to the legacy of Abdelaziz Bouteflika, who was forced out as president by street protests and the army chief in April.

The oil- and gas-rich country is now struggling to find a new political path, and protesters have maintained street demonstrations because much of the state apparatus under Bouteflika remains.

In a statement from the town of Blida, the court said seven people were convicted in the closed-door trial in the town of Blida. One of the defense lawyers, Mokrane Ait Larbi, said he would seek an appeal.

Among them were Said Bouteflika, brother and special counselor of Bouteflika, and former intelligence figures Gen. Athmane Tartag and Gen. Mohamed Mediene, who was known as Toufik — a name that once made Algerians tremble.

They were convicted of plotting against the state and undermining the army in the early weeks of the protests against Bouteflika, who was seeking a fifth mandate despite infirmities following a stroke.

The charges centered on March meetings between the three men and the leader of the left-wing Workers Party, Louisa Hanoune. Some feared they were plotting to fire powerful army chief Ahmed Gaid Salah, who was siding with the protesters.

The four were arrested in May, after Bouteflika was forced out amid anger at rampant corruption, unemployment and lack of political freedom. The pro-democracy demonstrations have continued since.

The trial was chaotic. Said Bouteflika refused to answer the judge's questions and walked out, according to one of the lawyers present. Tartag, who worked directly under the president, refused to leave his cell. Neither was present for the verdict.

Lawyer Ait Larbi, who represents Hanoune, called it a "politically driven trial."

All four were sentenced to 15 years in prison, the news reports said. Three others who are believed to have fled abroad were convicted in absentia to 20 years of prison.

WORLD

Climate activist wins 'Alternative Nobel'

Sweden's Thunberg is among 4 winners

Associated Press

COPENHAGEN, Denmark — Swedish climate activist Greta Thunberg is among four people named Wednesday as the winners of a Right Livelihood Award, also known as the "Alternative Nobel."

Thunberg is being recognized "for inspiring and amplifying political demands for urgent climate action reflecting scientific facts," the prize foundation said.

It added that the 16-year-old, who has been nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize, "personifies the notion that everyone has the power to create change. Her example has inspired and empowered people from all walks of life to demand political action."

Created in 1980, the annual Right Livelihood Award honors efforts that the prize founder, Swedish-German philanthropist Jakob von Uexkull, felt were being ignored by the Nobel prizes.

The four winners will each receive \$103,000.

The foundation also gave its 2019 award to Davi Kopenawa and the Hutukara Yanomami Association, representing Brazil's indigenous tribe, for protecting the Amazon forest and its people; Moroccan



FRANÇOIS MORI/AP

Greta Thunberg, center, leads a protest by thousands of French students in Paris in February. The sign reads: "School Strike for the Climate." Thunberg is among four winners of the "Alternative Nobel."

activist Aminatou Haidar "for her steadfast nonviolent action" for Western Sahara; and Chinese lawyer Guo Jianmei for her work for women's rights in China.

Ole von Uexkull, the foundation's executive director and nephew of the founder, said "we honor four practical visionaries

whose leadership has empowered millions of people to defend their inalienable rights and to strive for a livable future for all on planet Earth."

An award ceremony is planned in Stockholm on Dec. 4, six days before the Nobel prizes are handed out.

Thunberg said in a statement by the Right Livelihood foundation that "whenever I receive an award, it is not me who is the winner. I am part of a global movement of school children, youth and adults of all ages who have decided to act in defense of our living planet."

Thunberg said in a statement by the Right Livelihood foundation that "whenever I receive an award, it is not me who is the winner. I am part of a global movement of school children, youth and adults of all ages who have decided to act in defense of our living planet."

Irate walrus destroys Russian dingy in Arctic

KIRKENES, Norway — A walrus attacked and sank a small Russian boat tooting Arctic waters on a reconnaissance mission, sending researchers scrambling to shore.

Expedition members from Russia's Northern Fleet and the Russian Geographical Society barely escaped last week before walruses sank their dinghy, The Barents Observer reported Monday.

The group was sailing in a remote archipelago known as Franz Josef Land in the Russian Arctic, the Observer said. To get ashore for their research, they had to leave their more secure navy tugboat, Altai, and climb into smaller boats.

Baby Archie makes appearance in S. Africa

CAPE TOWN, South Africa — Baby Archie made a rare public appearance on Wednesday as his parents, Prince Harry and Meghan, the Duchess of Sussex, continued their first official tour as a family in South Africa.

Meghan held Archie as the royal couple met with Nobel Peace Prize winner and Archbishop Desmond Tutu in Cape Town.

The youngest member of Britain's royal family had been out of the spotlight since his christening in July. Archie, born in May, is the first child of Prince Harry and the former Meghan Markle and seventh in line to the British throne.

German man douses Autobahn fire with beer

BERLIN — A German motorist is being credited for his quick thinking after his engine caught fire on the Autobahn. He turned to a slightly different foam extinguisher to douse the flames: bottles of beer.

Police told the dpa news agency Wednesday that the man was on the highway near the town of Hoessbach in Bavaria the day before when he smelled something odd.

Pulling over, the man spotted flames under the hood of his car. He quickly grabbed bottles of beer from a case in his car and quenched the fire.

Boat capsizes, leaving 7 dead in Philippines

KALIBO, Philippines — The Philippines coast guard said seven rowers drowned and 14 others were rescued when their dragon boat overturned Wednesday after being lashed by strong waves during a practice run off a popular resort island.

Coast guard spokesman Armand Ballo said the accident happened off Boracay island in the central Philippines' Aklan province, where a local dragon boat team was practicing ahead of a rowing competition.

The boat capsized less than a third of a mile from the nearest beach.

From The Associated Press

Male model arrested in sex case in Thailand

By BUSABA SIVASOMBOON

Associated Press

BANGKOK — Police in Thailand on Wednesday arrested a male model accused of taking an unconscious woman home, boasting online about his sexual exploits and leaving her lifeless body in the lobby of his building.

Police brought charges of illegal detention leading to death, abduction with intent of committing an indecent act and molestation against Ratchadech Wongtubut, 24, in a case that has riveted the attention of the public and press.

The victim, Thitima Noraphaniphat, 25, made a living as a "pretty," the term for young women normally hired for events such as auto shows to pose seductively with products they are promoting.

Thitima, who used Lunabelle as her pro-

fessional name, was hired to attend a party from which Ratchadech left with her on the night of Sept. 16.

A media frenzy over the case has been fueled by the suspect's provocative online posts boasting of past sexual conquests, including as he had Thitima in his room, and copious surveillance video showing him carrying the apparently unconscious victim.

Thitima's family and boyfriend went to the media to press their case that her death involved wrongdoing and that the perpetrator be held to account. They acted as Ratchadech's involvement was made public and he initially had been questioned by police and released without charge after denying any criminal acts.

Metropolitan Police Commissioner Lt. Gen. Sutthipong Wongpin said at a news conference Wednesday that Ratchadech acknowledged

taking Thitima to his apartment but said he had no intention to do her harm and did not realize she was dead while she was with him. Police announced Tuesday that Thitima may have already been dead by the time Ratchadech brought her back to his apartment. They said Wednesday that an autopsy found Thitima had died from extreme alcohol intoxication, citing a blood alcohol concentration of 418 milligrams per 100 milliliters.

There had been speculation that Thitima was given a date rape drug such as GHB. But the drug rapidly disappears from the blood stream, making its presence difficult to confirm. Thai media cited police as saying none had been found in Ratchadech's apartment.

Police are investigating others who may be involved in the affair, especially the owner and guests at the house where Thitima attended the party before she died.

Administration to triple democracy aid to Venezuela

Associated Press

NEW YORK — The Trump administration is more than tripling U.S. support for pro-democracy work in Venezuela and for the first time directly funding opposition leader Juan Guaido as he attempts to set up a government to rival the socialist administration of Nicolas Maduro.

The \$52 million in new aid was announced Tuesday by Mark Green, the administrator of the U.S. Agency for International Development, following a meet-

ing in New York with Guaido's envoy, Carlos Vecchio, whom the Trump administration recognizes as Venezuela's ambassador in Washington.

The funding was mostly repurposed from aid originally earmarked for Honduras and Guatemala that President Donald Trump cut last year after accusing the Central American countries of failing to stem the flow of migrants to the U.S.

The funding boost shows the level of U.S. support for Guaido, who has drawn recognition as

Venezuela's rightful leader by more than 50 nations. But he has been unable to translate the international support and popularity at home into real power capable of helping regular Venezuelans suffering from hyperinflation and an economic collapse.

A senior Trump administration official said the new U.S. aid package seeks to address that deficit, providing about \$19 million to pay for secure communication devices, travel funds and training in budget planning and other tools to effectively gov-

ern should they manage to force Maduro from power.

The U.S. official spoke on the condition of anonymity because he is not authorized to publicly discuss details of the aid package.

Guaido's team said in a statement that it would not administer the money directly or give it to any institution or political party. It said it hoped to work with the U.S. in the coming days to decide how the funds would be spent and gave it to the American authorities to distribute the funds and audit their use.

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Woman pleads guilty to trespassing after selfie

ND BISMARCK — A Mandan woman pleaded guilty to trespassing after authorities say she jumped a guard rail at Bismarck's Dakota Zoo in July and approached a primate cage to take a selfie.

Ashlee Brown, 18, was fined \$300 after Monday's guilty plea and will be on unsupervised probation for nearly a year. She can keep the incident off her record if she stays out of trouble during that time.

Authorities said Brown touched a siamang, which is a small ape, and took a photograph.

Canceled festival of the undead to rise again

DE DEWEY BEACH — A horde of undead is once again expected to flood the streets of a small Delaware town.

News outlets reported that organizers of Milton's 2019 Zombie Fest announced the event's resurrection on Monday, unveiling a new name and location. The new, all-ages Milton Theatre Zombie Fest will take place Oct. 19 in Dewey Beach.

The original festival was killed in August, with organizers blaming town leaders for the loss of an event that nearly doubles Milton's population each year.

Organizer and theater director Fred Munzert said the cancellation announcement led 11 other Delaware towns to offer to host the growing festival.

Man cited after loaded gun found in luggage

WV HUNTINGTON — Officials said a West Virginia man was caught with a loaded gun at an airport checkpoint.

The Transportation Security Administration on Monday said the man was stopped with a 9 mm handgun in his carry-on bag at the Huntington Tri-State Airport on Sunday.

The TSA didn't release the name of the man, who they said was cited by police on a weapons violation. The gun had a bullet in the chamber and there were another 13 bullets in his bag.

B.B. King guitar sells for \$280K at auction

MS JACKSON — A guitar given to B.B. King for his 80th birthday has sold for \$280,000 at an auction of items from the blues legend's estate.

Julien's Auctions said King often used the black Gibson ES-345 prototype that was one of several guitars he called "Lucille." A spokeswoman for the auction house, Moxell Miley-Bailey, said Monday the buyer wants to remain anonymous.

Before the auction, Julien's estimated the guitar's value at \$80,000 to \$100,000. The headstock has "B.B. King 80" and a crown inlaid with mother-of-pearl, and the guitar is autographed on the back.

The auction of more than 550



JESSICA GRIFFIN, THE PHILADELPHIA INQUIRER/AP

Flag-raising celebration

Lesly Fernandez, front center, dances with the Esperanza Academy Dance Ensemble during a Puerto Rican flag-raising that was hosted by the City of Philadelphia Office of Immigrant Affairs at City Hall in Philadelphia on Monday.

items from King's estate took place in Los Angeles on Saturday, a few days after what would have been his 94th birthday.

Officer who arrested 6-year-olds is fired

FL ORLANDO — A police officer who arrested two 6-year-old students at a Florida elementary school last week has been fired.

Orlando police Chief Orlando Rolon announced Officer Dennis Turner's termination Monday afternoon. He said he reminded other officers of department policy that prohibits arrests of children under 12 without a manager's approval.

State Attorney Aramis Ayala, head prosecutor of Orange and Osceola counties, said earlier Monday she was dismissing misdemeanor battery charges against both children. Officials didn't say what prompted the arrests.

Man smoking sprayed with fire extinguisher

UT SALT LAKE CITY — A business owner has apologized after spraying a man smoking a cigarette in the face with a fire extinguisher in downtown Salt Lake City.

KSL-TV reported that Jon Bird was smoking a cigarette near

THE CENSUS

350

The number of dogs Tampa, Fla., officials have seized from a dog-breeding business.

Hillsborough County officials, who are waiving adoption fees as they work with animal shelters and rescue groups to accommodate the dogs, said conditions were so dangerous at Trish's All Breed Grooming that they obtained a court order this week and evacuated the dogs into the county's pet shelters. Scott Trebatoski, the director of the county's Pet Resource Center, told the Tampa Bay Times that county workers found as many as 30 dogs in cages meant for just one or two at the business. One puppy was found dead and others are in critical condition.

the Galloway Center on Friday evening when a business owner confronted him several times about smoking near his eatery. Bird said he was volunteering at an event and security personnel gave him permission to smoke at the spot.

In a widely shared video, business owner Alex Jamison can be seen spraying Bird from a few feet away as Bird shields his face.

Jamison said he overreacted and he apologized to Bird.

Stolen camera sends pictures that ID holder

LA WOODWORTH — Louisiana wildlife agents said a stolen cellular game camera kept sending pictures, letting them identify the man who had it. He and the man he said he'd bought it from were arrested.

A Department of Wildlife and Fisheries statement Monday said Kurt Wiggins, 55, is accused of theft and Ernie Jenkins, 53, of possessing stolen items. Both are from Woodworth.

Department spokesman Adam Eincik said a U.S. Department of Agriculture feral hog trapper reported Sept. 16 that his game camera, mount and battery pack were stolen from a trap site in the Kisatchie National Forest near Woodworth. Eincik said agents with a search warrant found the items Sept. 19 at Jenkins' home.

Couple accused of \$1M theft from restaurant

NM ROSWELL — A New Mexico couple is accused of stealing more than \$1 million from the Cattle Baron Restaurant in Roswell.

The state attorney general's office said Brian Casaus and his wife, Tammy, are facing numerous charges that include tax fraud and money laundering.

Criminal complaints allege Brian Casaus used his position as the restaurant's controller and office manager to transfer funds from the restaurant's bank account to personal accounts belonging to him and his wife.

Tammy Casaus worked as the restaurant's payroll coordinator.

Police deliver trashed Amazon packages

MA BURLINGTON — Officers in a Massachusetts police department briefly turned into Amazon delivery drivers after a stash of undelivered packages was found in a cemetery.

Burlington police tweeted that a "diligent groundskeeper" at a cemetery in the town northwest of Boston found the packages Monday morning in a trash receptacle and contacted police.

Police did not say exactly how many packages there were, but in photos posted on social media, it looked to be about 20.

Because the packages were addressed to Burlington residents, police took it upon themselves to deliver them.

From wire reports

FACES

Role with responsibility

Giancarlo Esposito feels pressure with 'Godfather of Harlem' part

By RICK BENTLEY
Tribune News Service

It has never mattered to Giancarlo Esposito whether he was taking on the role of a talking mirror, a member of a California police department, one of the most evil men to set foot in Albuquerque, N.M., or a noted politician. He attacks them all with a deep passion, as he shows in his latest work, playing Adam Clayton Powell Jr. in the 10-part series "Godfather of Harlem."

Esposito co-stars with Forest Whitaker, Vincent D'Onofrio, Nigel Thatch and Ifenesh Hadera in the production, which launches Sunday on Epix. The series is based on the story of infamous crime boss Bumpy Johnson (Whitaker), who in the early 1960s returned from 10 years in prison to find the New York neighborhood he once ruled in shambles. Johnson's efforts to regain control bring him in contact with radical preacher Malcolm X (Thatch) and minister/congressman Powell.

Esposito feels more pressure when he's taking on a character based on a real person. Powell is well remembered because of his connection to the civil rights movement.

"I feel extra responsibility when it's a historical character to render them real," Esposito says. "I do so much research for any character I do, but you have to make choices as an actor. With characters who don't have a historical background, you give them your historical background."

"Every role needs to be full and complete, but even more with those based on real people because there are people still alive who knew Adam Clayton Powell. When I say I want to get the character right, that means to render the role completely human and completely connected with all of the colors that he had as a human being."

Esposito got his first real understanding of the Harlem politician when he met his son at an event years before the series was in production. Esposito was excited about the meeting because he knew how powerful Powell was and how much he got accomplished.

Before Esposito started working on "Godfather of Harlem," he had a full understanding of how Powell knew he was smart and charming. The only blip he saw was the year in college when Powell passed as white and ended it when he realized it was "not soulful." Esposito sees the year as helping Powell become a great politician because everyone running for an office has to be able to adapt to the moment.

Esposito had to do some quick adapting himself during the early years of his career. The Italian-American actor and director would get called to auditions that were roles intended to be given to white actors because of his name. He laughs and says the casting director or producer would be apologetic when they would see him in a room full of people who looked completely different from Esposito.

Eventually, with a string of much-heralded roles in "Do the Right Thing," "Malcolm X," "The Usual Suspects," "Twilight"



Giancarlo Esposito plays the pastor and politician Adam Clayton Powell Jr. in the 10-part series "Godfather of Harlem."

and "Breaking Bad," everyone began to put a face with the name. Other credits include "Once Upon a Time," "Bakersfield, P.D." and "Homicide: Life on the Street." Up next is a starring role in the live-action Star Wars series "The Mandalorian" that will be broadcast on the Disney+ streaming service later this year.

Esposito can't talk much about the Star Wars project except to say getting to be part of a beloved franchise is something that's very exciting to him. Plus, he's taking on a role unlike anything his fans have ever seen him play.

Playing diverse roles is not an official plan. Esposito set out for himself when he was young, but he knows he's always wanted to be able to take on a variety of roles. Esposito left the Broadway stage when he was young because there were so few roles for African-American actors.

"People didn't know if I was black or white. They knew I had brown skin, but they also knew there was something different about me," Esposito says. "Not knowing where you belong is a burden to carry. I wanted to be me, and so I started to make choices that were reflective of my spirit, my politics, my humanity."

"That had me realize in my brain that I could do

anything. My career has been based on meritocracy, quality, integrity. I feel more blessed that I have not allowed myself to think as a color. The idea is to play a human being each and every time."



Giancarlo Esposito has played a wide range of roles, but the actor says he feels more pressure when he's taking on a character based on a real person.

RICHARD SNOWMELT, INVISION/AP

Jann Wenner to step down as chairman of Rock Hall

Associated Press

Jann Wenner will retire next year as chairman of the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame Foundation.

Wenner announced Wednesday that he will step down Jan. 1. The co-founder and publisher of Rolling Stone magazine is one of the founding members of the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame and is credited with recruiting architect I.M. Pei to create its Cleveland museum.

The annual induction ceremony is a major concert event that is broadcast by HBO.

Wenner, 73, will be replaced by Rock Hall board member John Sykes, the co-founder of MTV and VH1.

Wenner will remain on the board of directors.

Dern, Neill, Goldblum in 'Jurassic World 3'

Jeff Goldblum, Laura Dern and Sam Neill will reprise their "Jurassic Park" roles in the upcoming "Jurassic World 3."

Their castings were announced Tuesday night by executive producer and director Colin Trevorrow at a screening of "Jurassic World" attended by Dern. While Goldblum's Ian Malcolm appeared in 2018's "Jurassic World: Fallen Kingdom," Dern and Neill haven't been back with the dinosaurs since 2001's "Jurassic Park III."

All originated their roles in the 1993 original, "Jurassic Park."

"Jurassic World 3," starring Chris Pratt and Bryce Dallas Howard, is to be released in June 2021.

Grateful Dead's poetic lyricist dies at 78

Robert Hunter, the man behind the poetic and mystical words for many of the Grateful Dead's finest songs, has died at age 78.

Hunter died Monday at his Northern California home with his wife, Maureen, at his side, former Grateful Dead publicist Dennis McNally told The Associated Press on Tuesday. The family did not release a cause of death.

"We loved Bob Hunter and will miss him unimaginably," Grateful Dead drummer Mickey Hart said, adding the lyricist was "a visionary wordsmith extraordinaire."

Although proficient on a number of instruments, including guitar, violin, cello and trumpet, Hunter never appeared on stage with the Grateful Dead during the group's 30-year run that ended with the 1995 death of lead guitarist Jerry Garcia, his principal songwriting partner.

Hunter's memorable Grateful Dead songs include "Friend of the Devil," "Box of Rain," "Uncle John's Band," "Cumberland Blues," "It Must Have Been the Roses," "Terrapin Station," "The Days Between," "Brown Eyed Women," "Jack Straw" and "Black Muddy River."

Stripes SERVICE DIRECTORY

The Daily Guide to Navigating the European Business Market

Dental 902

Transportation

944

AMERICAN DOCTORS & STAFF

SERVICES OFFERED

- family dentistry
- periodontal maintenance
- root canals
- wisdom teeth surgery
- implant surgery
- certified orthodontics
- nitrous oxide



*Caring,
Friendly,
American
Staff*



Ramstein Dental Care
06371 406230
Poststrasse 1, 66877 Ramstein
Ramsteindental.com

Wiesbaden Dental Care
06119 887 2650
Bahnstrasse 14, 65205 Wiesbaden
Wiesbadendental.com



Certified American
Dental Hygienists
TRICARE Preferred Provider



VEHICLE SHIPPING SERVICES

- International Shipping
- Import & Export
- Inland trucking (U.S. & Europe)
- Door to door pick-up/delivery service
- Customs clearance
- All Risk Marine Insurance
- Auto Insurance (Germany only)

For Further Information Please Contact

GERMANY
Phone: +49-(0)6134-2592730
Toll-free: 0800-CARSHIP (Germany only)
E-Mail: info@transglobal-logistics.de
WEB: www.transglobal-logistics.de

UNITED KINGDOM
+44-(0)1638-515714
enquiries@carshipuk.co.uk
www.carshipuk.co.uk

USA
+1 972-602-1670 Ext. 1701
+1 800-264-8167 (US only)
info@tgalus.com
www.tgalus.com

For 2nd POV Shipments - Offices / Agencies near Military Installations



LOGISTICS EUROPE GMBH



Transportation

944

Ship Cars and Containers to and from the USA



OPENING HOURS: 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Mon - Fri
0800-522-6274 or 800-WSA-SHIP (872-7447)

For a free rate request, please email: info@worldwide-ship.de
Visit our Website: www.worldwide-ship.de

Transportation

944

Vehicle Transport

We can help



We move your world

Contact: Mr. Heiko Twachtmann
htwachtmann@neukirch.de

+49 (0) 421 48 94 225 www.interglobalshipping.de

Off Duty? Amuse Yourself!

Concerts, events, TV,
movies, music, video games,
celebrity antics...

Get entertained with...

STARS AND STRIPES

Be the one who really knows what's going on!



Never miss a **Stars and Stripes**.

We report on issues that affect you the most,
covering military news from
*Capitol Hill to Europe, Pacific, the
Middle East and the Pentagon.*

No one covers the bases the way we do.

Wherever you need us, however you read us:

Stars and Stripes is always for you.

STARS AND STRIPES

In print • Online at stripes.com • Mobile for Android, iPhone & iPad

STARS AND STRIPES

Max D. Lederer Jr., Publisher
Lt. Col. Sean Kilmree, Europe commander
Lt. Col. Richard McClintic, Pacific commander
Caroline E. Miller, Europe Business Operations

EDITORIAL

Terry Leonard, Editor
leonard.terry@stars.com
Robert H. Reid, Senior Managing Editor
reid.robert@stars.com
Tina Croley, Managing Editor for Content
croley.tina@stars.com
Sean Moores, Managing Editor for Presentation
moores.sean@stars.com
Joe Gromelski, Managing Editor for Digital
gromelski.joe@stars.com

BUREAU STAFF

Europe/Mideast
Erik Slavlin, Europe & Mideast Bureau Chief
slavin.erik@stars.com
+49(0)631.3615.9350, DSN (314)583.9350

Pacific
Aaron Kidd, Pacific Bureau Chief
kidd.aaron@stars.com
+81.42.552.2511 ext. 88380, DSN (315)227.3780

Washington
Joseph Caccioli, Washington Bureau Chief
caccioli.joseph@stars.com
+1(202)886-0033
Brian Brown, Assistant Managing Editor, News
brown.brian@stars.com

CIRCULATION

Mideast
Robert Reisman, Mideast Circulation Manager
robert.r.w.reisman.naf@gmail.com
irculation@stars.com
DSN (314)583-9111

Europe
Karen Lyles, Community Engagement Manager
lyles.karen@stars.com
memberservices@stars.com
+49(0)631.3615.9090, DSN (314)583.9090

Pacific
Mari Mori, customerhelp@stars.com
+81-3 6385.3131, DSN (315)229.3171

CONTACT US

Washington
tel: +1(202) 465-0023
633 3rd St. NW, Suite 116, Washington, DC 20001-3505

Reader letters
letters@stars.com

Additional contacts
stars@stars.com/contact

OMBUSDMAN

Ernie Gates

The Stars and Stripes ombudsman protects the free flow of news and information, reporting any attempts by the military or other authorities to undermine the newspaper's independence. The ombudsman also responds to concerns and questions from readers, and monitors coverage for fairness, accuracy, timeliness and balance. The ombudsman welcomes comments from readers, and can be contacted by email at ombudsman@stars.com, or by phone at 202.886.0003.

Stars and Stripes (USPS 0417900) is published weekly (except Dec. 25 and Jan. 1) for 50 cents Monday through Thursday and for 60 cents Friday by Pacific Stars and Stripes, Unit 45002, APO AP 96301-5002. Periodicals postage paid at San Francisco, CA. Postmaster: Send address changes to Pacific Stars and Stripes, Unit 45002, APO AP 96301-5002.

This newspaper is authorized by the Department of Defense for members of the military services overseas. However, the contents of Stars and Stripes are unofficial, and are not to be considered as the official views of, or endorsed by the U.S. government. Stars and Stripes may be distributed through official channels and use appropriated funds for distribution to remote locations where overseas DOD personnel are located.

The appearance of advertising in this publication does not constitute endorsement by the Department of Defense or Stars and Stripes of the products or services advertised. Products or services advertised shall be made available for purchase, use or patronage without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, marital status, physical handicap, political affiliation or any other nonmerit factor of the purchaser, user or patron.

© Stars and Stripes 2019

stars.com

OPINION

Dems seem set on destroying Biden's chances

By DAVID VON DREHLE
The Washington Post

I can't help looking at the pickup truck. It's a beauty of a beast: a 2017 Chevy Silverado, complete with the Z71 off-road package and a Duramax turbo-diesel engine, as black as a night in Mammoth Cave, as glossy as a freshly groomed Derby winner. But that's not why I'm transfixed. I'm looking at the bed of the truck, where 76-year-old Joe Biden is about to stand and deliver encouraging words to members of the striking United Auto Workers. More precisely, I'm looking at the very small, very steep step from the uneven ground to that elevated perch.

Certain questions arise when politics meets the presidential campaign. Donald Trump and three of the leading Democratic running for president are all 70-plus years of age. Call me agist, but I can't help wondering how Biden is going to negotiate the climb into that truck bed in the 50th year of his campaigning career.

Not to be outdone, the former vice president port wearing a big smile under his Clint Eastwood suit and a red union T-shirt over his blue button-down. And after the briefest of introductions, Biden seemingly levitates — step, step, sure-footed as a Sherpa — to take the microphone and announce, "I'm Joe Biden, and I'm UAW!"

We should all be so sorry. The rest of his appearance on Sunday went just as smoothly. His remarks were focused and appropriate. None of the rambling riffs that have, in the past, made Biden supporters grit their teeth and pray. His lead-handling was masterful, striking the all-important balance between making connections and keeping the line moving. "God love ya!" Biden said.

And, "Keep the faith!" "What's the dog's name?" "How are ya, sis!" All the while, people were handing him their cellphones and leaning in for selfies, which Biden framed and snapped before returning each person in an almost perpetual motion.

Summing up: A robust, relaxed and disciplined Joe Biden visited the picket line outside the General Motors factory here, and for the first time I found myself thinking, as I watched the performance, that he just might have what it takes to nurse his little lead in the polls all the way to the Democratic nomination. He spoke the language and basked in the love of exactly the sort of working men and women who are the keys to victory in swing states such as Michigan, Wisconsin and Pennsylvania.

Yet it was a terrible day for Biden, because while he was winning votes on the picket line, Democrats in Washington were freshly lathered over impeaching the president. And it appears they are going to feed Biden into a wood chipper as part of their vain quest.

At issue is a Trump phone call with the president of Ukraine, during which the leader of the free world cajoled his counterpart to dig up dirt on the Biden family and may have used U.S. foreign aid as both carrot and stick. Pretty jaw-dropping behavior from a man who spent two years in hot water over the issue of foreign election interference. Except that, by what appearances, Trump has been trying for months to goad the House Democrats into impeaching him.

Having watched 20 years ago as President Bill Clinton's poll numbers soared after a failed impeachment attempt, Trump is apparently ready to take that chance. He's betting on a similar cure. His firm grip on Senate Republicans virtually assures his survival because a two-

thirds majority in the Senate is necessary to convict and remove an impeached president from office.

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., has for months struggled to quiet her caucus of feckless congressmen, but the drumbeat is now so deafening that she had no choice but to authorize an impeachment inquiry. And the price of impeachment for Biden will be weeks, perhaps months, of nonstop discussion of his son Hunter Biden and Hunter's activities in Ukraine and elsewhere. While some people will figure the younger Biden a sympathetic figure — he lost his mother and sister in a car wreck as a boy, and lost his older brother, Beau, to cancer in 2015 — others will likely focus on his long record of drug abuse and reckless behavior, documented in detail this past summer by the New Yorker's Adam Entous.

More to the point: Trump's defenders will pick apart Hunter Biden's work history, which is full of employers and partners who, one way or another, sought the good favor of his powerful father. Among these was a Ukrainian energy company called Burisma, which invited Hunter Biden to serve on its board. Burisma has been accused of being part of the rampant corruption that bedevils Kiev.

Make no mistake. While Trump's behavior would certainly be on trial, it would be set alongside the awkward question: What did Burisma expect to achieve by allying with the vice president's hot mess of a son? And because impeachments are rare and historic events, that awkward question will be a centerpiece of the biggest political news event of the year.

For candidate Joe Biden, it could be an obstacle too steep to overcome.

David Von Drehle is a Washington Post columnist. He is the author of "Rise and Fall of Abraham Lincoln and America's Most Perilous Year."

Aglimpse into a world where Trump is not in peril

By GARY ABERNATHY
Special to The Washington Post

ILLSBORO, Ohio
President Donald Trump is seen in the news as perpetually on the verge of being toppled by the latest scandal of the week. But not here in Hillsboro or places like it.

The latest round of accusations involving Supreme Court Justice Brett Kavanaugh led to calls for Kavanaugh's impeachment in Washington but were largely dismissed here as more flimsy, partisan attacks. Former Trump campaign manager Corey Lewandowski's scornful testimony before Congress brought demands for a contempt citation from some but was mostly cheered here. The saga of Trump, Ukraine and the unknown "vishistolev" tape people here wonder why former Vice President Joe Biden isn't more scrutinized for boasting about what locals see as similar behavior.

Anyone interested in venturing outside the "Trump in Constant Crisis" universe to observe how others view the president does not need to travel far. Hillsboro, Ohio, is a lactic or SpaceX for a journey into space. Just spend a few days at an agricultural fair. There are more than 3,000 held annually across the nation.

In rural settings where homes are separated by acres of soybeans and corn rather than blocks of city housing, farm duties often confine residents to barnyards and fields through much of the year, except for trips to the grocery store, school events or church. For these residents, events such as the Highland County Fair — held the first week of September on about 100 sprawling acres on the edge of Hillsboro — represent a much-anticipated annual ex-

cursion. As one fair official said this year: "The fair is like a social event. Sometimes people don't see other people they know the whole year, so they come to the fair to see them."

There were carnival rides for the kids, along with tractor pulls, demolition derbies, a rodeo, "Barnyard Olympics" (muddy obstacle courses, tire-rolling contests) and cheerleader competitions. A queen was crowned and an amateur talent show held, the winner being a performer of country music, namely, Art, a lard,inary, floral and craft display. There were also entries, all vying for coveted blue ribbons. But mostly, the fair is a celebration of farming and, as always, youngsters proudly displayed the cattle, swine, goats, poultry and other animals they raised.

The fair is not a political rally, and Republicans largely and unaffiliatedly commingled and fellowshiped throughout the week. But in a county Trump won with 76 percent of the vote, signs of continued support for the president were common. There were bumper stickers in the parking lots — "Trump 2020" and "Keep America Great" — and no anti-Trump. Numerous MAGA hats and Trump T-shirts could be spotted. One teenage boy casually strolled across the midway with friends, a huge "TRUMP" flag draped around his shoulders.

Even more prolific, but almost synonymous with Trump's name on a banner, were sartorial declarations of Second Amendment adherence, such as "I'm a bitter gun owner clinging to my religion" and "Criminals Love Gun Control. It Gives Them A Safe Work Environment."

As fairgoers sat on bleachers inside the many barns to bid on champion livestock, or relaxed on benches dotted the fair-

grounds enjoying a pulled pork or fish sandwich, conversations mostly centered on the fair exhibits and this year's near-perfect weather. But also overheard were inevitable complaints about the constant attacks on Trump.

"Russia collusion" failed, several noted, but critics moved seamlessly to "obstruction." During the week of the fair came "Sharpiegate," Trump's alleged weather-map manipulation. In the media, it brought hyperbolic accusations of illegality, but as fair visitors waited in line at the ticket gate (\$10 admission, rides included), a few were heard to wonder how little it takes for Trump to drive the media nuts. And so it went among residents of this alternate reality far removed from the cascade of negative images and narratives about Trump beamed daily onto their TV and smartphone screens.

The Highland County Fair has endured, rain or shine, for more than 70 years, despite occasions of drought, crop failure, trade wars and grain embargoes. "Like a tree that's planted by the waters," the old hymn declares, "I shall not be moved."

Next year's fair will be held just two months before the 2020 election. No matter the hardships that might befall farm families, livestock will be exhibited and blue ribbons will be awarded. Regardless of how hot or cold it might be or how much rain might fall, the tractor pulls will be held into the wee hours of the morning. And despite the outrages and scandals that will be relayed from that galaxy far, far away called Washington, for most fairgoers Trump will still be their man. They shall not be moved.

Gary Abernathy is a freelance writer and former newspaper editor based in Hillsboro, Ohio.

BUSINESS/WEATHER



WILFREDO LEA/AP

People seeking jobs at McDonald's can now start an application by using voice commands on their smartphones with Amazon's Alexa or Google's Assistant.

McDonald's enlists Alexa, Google to help with hiring

By DEE-ANN DURBIN
Associated Press

Starting Wednesday, McDonald's Corp. began letting job seekers start an application by using voice commands with Amazon's Alexa or Google's Assistant.

If users say, "Alexa, help me get a job at McDonald's," Alexa will ask which country they want to work in and play McDonald's catchy "I'm lovin' it" jingle. After that, users can share their phone number and get a link to continue the application process.

Alexa also shares some facts about working for the company, such as how it can lead to jobs in other fields.

The function is available in the U.S., Canada, Australia, France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Spain and the United Kingdom. McDonald's is also exploring adding the feature in other markets. It's

not yet available through Apple's Siri.

The move is an unusual one. While some job recruitment companies have built voice-recognition systems on Google and Amazon's platforms, both companies say McDonald's is the first direct employer to use its platform in this way. McDonald's developed the technology.

For McDonald's, voice-initiated hiring is a way to stand out in a tight job market. The U.S. unemployment rate of 3.7% is near a 50-year low. Unemployment is also below 4% in the U.K. and Germany.

McDonald's employs 2 million people at 38,000 restaurants worldwide, and its needs are constantly changing based on turnover and seasonal demands. Over the summer, the Chicago-based company said it was hiring 250,000 people in the U.S. alone.

Strike pinches workers, GM, dealers, car owners

By TOM KRISHER
Associated Press

DETROIT — As the United Auto Workers' strike against General Motors stretches into a second week, it's not just the company and striking workers getting pinched.

With many replacement part warehouses shut down, dealers are beginning to run short of components to repair cars, trucks and SUVs. Companies that make auto parts are also starting to see work slow down. Dealer inventory of new vehicles is holding up but starting to get depleted on a few models.

Meanwhile, GM is losing millions of dollars and has been forced to close one Canadian factory and send workers home at another. The 49,000 striking workers are going to have to get by on \$250 per week in strike pay.

Here's a look at the ripple effects of the strike:

Auto parts

The biggest impact so far seems to be the lack of availability of some replacement parts for GM vehicles. The strike has shut down a parts depot in Charlotte, N.C., where the Southeast region normally gets its replacements, said Ed Williamson, who owns several GM dealers in the Miami area. Parts suppliers, especially smaller ones where GM is the main customer, are also starting to get hit, said Morningstar analyst David Whiston.

Dealer inventory

GM had a 77-day supply of vehicles at the end of August, but big SUVs were only at about 55 days, lower than the industry average. With no shipments since Sept. 16, suppliers are starting to drop. Michelle Krebs, executive analyst for Autodata, said dealers have told her that they'll have ample supply for another week or so. Sales in September thus far have been slowing from August levels, so supplies aren't being depleted that quickly, she said.

Citi analyst Iray Michael estimated GM is losing \$100 million in profits per day. The strike has already caused GM to lay off 1,850 workers and shut down its assembly plant in Oshawa, Ontario, near Toronto. Another 730 were laid off from an engine plant in St. Catharines, Ontario.

UAW workers

Striking workers received their last GM paycheck last Friday and now will have to rely on \$250

per week in union strike pay that starts this Friday. When they're on the job, most workers get about \$30 per hour in wages, or roughly \$1,200 per week. Whiston estimates that the work stoppage will cost the UAW's roughly \$750 million strike fund about \$31.5 million per week in strike pay and health care costs.

EXCHANGE RATES

Military rates	
Euro costs (Sept. 26)	\$1.1282
Dollar buys (Sept. 26)	€0.8864
British pound (Sept. 26)	\$1.27
Japanese yen (Sept. 26)	¥105.00
South Korean won (Sept. 26)	₩1,169.00
Commercial rates	
Bahrain (Dinar)	0.3770
British pound	£1.2384
Canada (Dollar)	1.3274
China (Yuan)	7.1291
Denmark (Krone)	6.7953
Egypt (Pound)	16.3591
Euro	\$1.0985/0.9103
Hong Kong (Dollar)	7.8385
Hungary (Forint)	304.69
Israel (Shekel)	3.5017
Japan (Yen)	107.55
Kuwait (Dinar)	0.3039
Norway (Krone)	9.0339
Philippines (Peso)	52.29
Poland (Zloty)	4.40
Saudi Arabia (Riyal)	3.7511
Singapore (Dollar)	1.3784
South Korea (Won)	1,200.80
Switzerland (Franc)	0.9871
Thailand (Baht)	36.557
Turkey (Lira)	0.0992
(Military exchange rates are those available to customers at military banking facilities in the country of issuance for Japan, South Korea, Germany, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom. For nonlocal currency exchange rates (i.e., purchasing British pounds in Germany), check with your local military banking facility. Commercial rates are interbank rates provided for reference when buying currency. All figures are foreign currencies to one dollar, except for the British pound, which is represented in dollars-to-pound, and the euro, which is dollars-to-euro.)	

MARKET WATCH

Sept. 24, 2019

Dow Jones Industrials	-142.22
	26,807.77
Nasdaq composite	-118.83
	7,993.63
Standard & Poor's 500	-25.18
	2,966.60
Russell 2000	-24.66
	1,533.59

INTEREST RATES

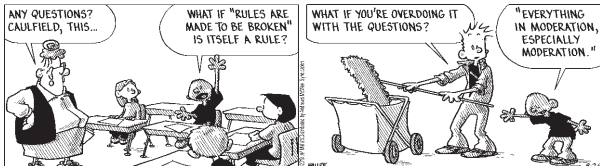
Prime rate	5.00
Discount rate	2.50
Federal funds market rate	1.00
3-month bill	1.88
30-year bond	2.09

WEATHER OUTLOOK



The weather is provided by the American Forces Network Weather Center, 2nd Weather Squadron at Offutt Air Force Base, Neb.

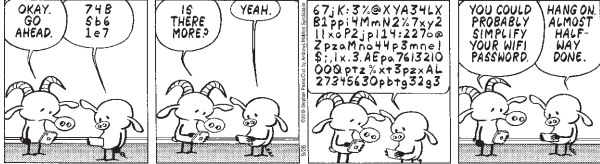
Frazz



Dilbert



Pearls Before Swine



Non Sequitur



Candorville



Carpe Diem



Beetle Bailey



Bizarro



Eugene Sheffer Crossword

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12				13			14			
15				16			17			
18				19			20	21		
		22					23			
24	25	26		27	28	29			30	31
32				33					34	
35			36	37					38	
		39					40	41		
42	43			44	45			46	47	48
49				50	51			52		
53				54				55		
56				57				58		

ACROSS

- 1 Paint layer
- 5 Remit
- 8 Con job
- 12 Singer Guthrie
- 13 "As I see it," to a texter
- 14 Little, in Livorno
- 15 Some HDTVs
- 16 Joke
- 17 Madame Bovary
- 18 Kidnapper's demand
- 20 Tarzan types
- 22 Before
- 23 Poem of praise
- 24 Honey bunch?
- 27 Countrywide
- 32 Unwell
- 33 Pair
- 34 — chi
- 35 Scouring powder
- 38 Aspiring atty.'s exam
- 39 ISP choice
- 40 Cow's greeting
- 42 Was an obedient dog
- 45 Surplus
- 49 Sea filer
- 50 Skedaddle
- 52 Metric weight
- 53 Ceremony
- 54 Picnic crasher
- 55 Ms. Brockovich
- 56 Breathing (Abbr.)

DOWN

- 17 Rx writers
- 18 Turnover and Danson
- 26 Periodic table listing
- 28 Bedazzle
- 29 Harasses
- 30 Bond rating
- 31 Set afire
- 36 In dreamland
- 37 Away from SSW
- 38 Pendant with a photo
- 41 Symbol of strength
- 42 Frankfurt fellow
- 43 Pennsylvania
- 44 Apothecary measure
- 46 Hibernia
- 47 Lost traction
- 48 Some babies
- 51 German conjunction

Answer to Previous Puzzle

T	I	E	R	F	A	D	A	D	S
A	S	T	O	E	A	U	R	E	A
P	L	A	Y	D	E	A	D	E	A
S	A	L	A	D	S	A	N	D	E
				L	E	N	O	P	A
I	L	L	S	A	P	P	T	O	A
R	I	O	S	I	R	E	S	C	R
E	S	C	A	L	A	S	A	S	K
				K	E	G	H	O	L
H	I	D	D	E	N	M	E	C	C
A	D	O	G	D	O	W	N	P	L
H	O	W	E	A	V	A	E	A	S
S	S	N	S	K	A	Y	D	Y	E

9-26

CRYPTOQUIP

N EQ AHZT SHZZNVKH ES
NDUSEKKNDF SHKHANUNLD
GEVNDHSU. LDH QNFW S UET

SWES N'Q ND-GLDULKH-EVKH.
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: BIG, SCARY HUMANOID
CREATURE THAT IS SAID TO INHABIT A
MARSHY REGION: THE BOGGY MONSTER.
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: S equals T

FREE AD Guidelines:

- Free ads are available only DOD ID Card holders selling personal merchandise.
- Ads may contain up to 32 words. All Ads must contain price and contact information. No websites will be accepted in Free ads.
- Stars and Stripes reserves the right to re-classify, rewrite and reject any ads.

STARS AND STRIPES CLASSIFIED

Go to stripes.com to place your free ad. *Sell fast! Buy fast*

When you see this camera icon go to stripes.com to view the uploaded photo.

EUROPE		MIDDLE EAST		PACIFIC	
Advertising	Kristi Kimmel kimmel.kristi@stripes.com +49(0)631-3615-9013 DSN 314.583.9013	Kristi Kimmel kimmel.kristi@stripes.com +49(0)631-3615-9013 DSN 314.583.9013	Robert Reismann reismann.robert@stripes.com +49(0)631-3615.9150 DSN 314.583.9150	Ichiro Katayanagi CustomerHelp@stripes.com +81(3) 6385.3267 DSN 315.229.3267	Mari Matsumoto SSPcirculation@stripes.com +81(3) 6385.3171 DSN 315.229.3171
Circulation	Van Rowell rowell.van@stripes.com +49(0)631.3615.9111 DSN 314.583.9111				
Reader Letters	letters@stripes.com	letters@stripes.com		letters@stripes.com	

Classifieds EUROPE

For information on Commercial Rates: CIV: 0631-3615-9012 or DSN: 583-9012

Announcements 040	Automotive 140	Arts & Crafts 080	Four Wheel Drives 162	Furniture 510	Furniture 510	Jobs Offered 630
SCAM FADS Classifieds, scams can target both sellers and buyers with classified advertisements. Be aware of the common red flags. Some of the latest Scam fads are: Vehicle buyers wanting to buy sight unseen and have the vehicle shipped through an agent using paypal. People paying Free Dog (different breeds) for adoption.	SELLER BEWARE Individuals placing classified advertising should use discretion in concluding the sale of their property. Not all potential buyers are reputable or honest. Stars and Stripes suggests that you take precautions to ensure that potential buyers are reputable and will be able to fulfill the terms of the sale. Stars and Stripes is not liable for the contractual relationship between sellers and buyers of merchandise advertised in the newspaper or on the web site.	Autos for Sale 141 Mercedes for Sale - 2009 E200 Kompressor, Asking \$7,700, 120K miles, New Moon, Roof, USJK Inspected, Call David @ 010-174-0058 Email: discovery44@gmail.com Call: 00-474-0058 2013 VW Golf R - \$20,000.00, 100 miles, car purchased in Arizona, 4 Door Black, Part 9 speed manual, Upgraded, Upgraded ECU 300+ HP, Upgraded Brembo 8 caliper brake system, Upgraded Forge turbine intake from clay core (two sets) of tires included. Call: 010-6030810 Autos for Sale - Germany 142 Auto - Quality Pre-owned US SPEC Vehicles www.us-specvehicles.com Free Europe-wide delivery	Collectibles 350 African Ebony Letter Openers and Fertility Dolls - \$300.00, 3 Ebony Letter openers and 3 Ebony Fertility dolls from The Gambia, West Africa. P.O. Sale. Call: +49-6571-9522421 Furniture 510 Antique English Bureau (Desk) \$800.00 - Grand mid-18th Century English drop front hardwood bureau, excellent condition, 55 1/2" H x 36" W x 18" D. One long drawer, raised top, shelf, shelves below, mounted on 2 broad metal feet. Reasonable offers OK. Buyer picks up. +49-6571-9522421 - Call: +49-6571-9522421 Mirror (from UK) - \$75.00 - Chesterland Walnut mirror circa 1800, 34 1/2" H x 20 1/2" W. Fine English, and excellent condition. Seller. Buyer picks up. Call: +49-6571-9522421	Edwardian Walnut Arched Mirror (from UK) - \$400.00 - In a walnut frame, with a cast iron base. Buyer picks up. +49-6571-9522421 - Call: +49-6571-9522421 English Oak Leaded-back Chairs - \$800.00 - Pair of English Oak Lancashire Leaded-back Chairs. 18th Century. Buyer picks up. P.O. Sale. Leave tel # and I will contact you. Buyer picks up. +49-6571-9522421 - Call: +49-6571-9522421 English Wicker Picnic Hampers - \$175.00 - 2 Brand New English Wicker Picnic Hampers (Basket). 1 Chair and 1 stool, etc. One is service for 4 (up to 6). Great Gift for Newsworld! Call and leave tel # if interested. Cost is per hamper. Call: +49-6571-9522421 Mink Trimmed Cream Colored Cape - \$45.00 - Ladies hand-made cream colored velvet cape with ivory trimmed in fur. Great for winters in Germany. Leave your e-mail and I will get to you. Call: +49-6571-9522421 US Army Vintage Fort Dix Scarf - \$10.00 - Vintage US Army Fort Dix New Jersey Scarf. Call: +49-6571-9522421	Monopoly Norwich (England) Special Edition - \$25.00 - Brand new Monopoly Norwich Edition from England. In shrink wrap. Call: +49-6571-9522421 - Call: +49-6571-9522421 New Fireplace Screen and Replicate Tools - \$170.00 - Brand new Antique Copper Finish Fireplace screen and set of matching antique copper finish fireplace tools. Price is for both items. Leave tel # and I will contact you. Buyer picks up. +49-6571-9522421 - Call: +49-6571-9522421 PCS Sale 780 Bodum Coffee Press + Tray + 6 cups - \$40.00 - Bodum Chambord Coffee Press with cork + 6 cups + Antique Rosewood Servo tray with emblem. See pic. Sale. Leave phone ring and I will call you back. Buyer picks up. Call: +49-6571-9522421 Burligh Wave Tea Set \$200.00 - 10 piece Burligh Wave Tea set: teapot, 4 cups + water jug and lid, sugar creamer + wand. See pic with lid. From England, three new. Buyer picks up. P.O. Sale. Leave message and I will call you back. Call: +49-6571-9522421	Hiring DCGS-A Field Service Analysts Multiple locations Requirements: <input type="checkbox"/> TS/SCI Clearance <input type="checkbox"/> CompTIA Security+ Certification Join us! USAFalcon Apply today dlr.falcon.af.mil Photography 830 Tripod - \$25.00 - Tripod, like new. Buyer picks up. Call: +49-6571-9522421 Free Classifieds! Visit Stripes.com for details. STARS AND STRIPES Read STARS AND STRIPES online at www.stripes.com

Classifieds PACIFIC

PacificClassifieds@stripes.com JAPAN DSN: 229.3276 Civ: 03.6385.3276 OKINAWA DSN: 645.7418 Civ: 098.893.0292
 KOREA DSN: 721.7146 Civ: 82.2.2270.7146 FROM USA Overseas: 011.81.3.6385.3276

Autos for Sale 141

2007 SMS - \$1,900.00 - 2007 SMS, 169,000 km, Runs good, Good A, heated seats, sunroof. Call or text: 010-3004.1512 - Jimmae Email: Kevinmm1@yahoo.com

Are you in the picture?

Reading Stars and Stripes gives you a better handle on issues that affect you most.
No one covers the bases the way we do.

STARS AND STRIPES

In print • Online at stripes.com
 Mobile for Android, iPhone & iPad

Round-the-world news for America's military.

Stripes.com supplies constant updates, on news of interest — including reports from our overseas military bases in Europe, Pacific, Southwest Asia and the Mideast, and coverage of the Pentagon and Capitol Hill.
 Also available on mobile apps for iPhone and Android and in a Tablet Edition for iPad.

STARS AND STRIPES
 Mobile • Online • Print

Available Now

STARS  STRIPES®

Presents

FORCE FOR HIRE

A STARS AND STRIPES PODCAST

A new podcast from the unique perspective only Stars and Stripes can provide.

Join us as we examine the influence of private military contracting on today's armed forces.

Explore the culture, history, myths and facts of the new reality of modern warfare.

Listen Now on



and on **Stripes.com/podcasts**

Hosted by Michelle Harven and
Air Force veteran Desmon Farris.



NHL

Briefs

Matthews issued summons

TORONTO — The Toronto Maple Leafs say they are aware of a complaint of disturbing the peace against star forward Auston Matthews.

The team says Matthews is cooperating with authorities and declined further comment “out of respect for the process involved.”

A Scottsdale, Ariz., police spokesman said the department in Matthews’ hometown investigated a disorderly conduct case involving an Auston Matthews on May 26. He said Matthews was not arrested and the case has been forwarded to the city prosecutor’s office for review.

Online court records show an Auston Matthews with a birthdate of September 1997 was issued a summons on July 23 for “disorderly conduct — disruptive behavior or fighting.” The Leafs center was born Sept. 17, 1997.

Matthews, the first pick in the 2016 draft, has 111 goals and 205 points in 212 NHL games. He also has 10 goals and three assists in 20 playoff appearances for Toronto.

Blues acquire Faulk in trade

ST. LOUIS — The St. Louis Blues acquired All-Star defenseman Justin Faulk from the Carolina Hurricanes on Tuesday in exchange for defenseman Joel Edmundson and a prospect.

The Blues also announced Faulk had signed a seven-year contract extension worth \$45.5 million that goes into effect following this season with the defending Stanley Cup champion.

Faulk gives the Blues another offensively gifted right-handed shooting defenseman who could play on the second or third pair. He could also run the second power-play unit.

The 27-year-old Faulk had 85 goals and 258 points — club records in both stat categories among defensemen — and had spent his entire eight-year NHL career with Carolina.

Leafs release goalie Neuvirth

TORONTO — The Toronto Maple Leafs have released veteran goalie Michael Neuvirth, meaning Michael Hutchinson has likely won the backup job.

Neuvirth was vying for the No. 2 spot behind Frederik Andersen. But he played just two periods during training camp because of an unspecified injury.

Hutchinson made 38 saves in a 3-0 shut-out of the Montreal Canadiens on Monday behind a largely AHL lineup. Neuvirth was supposed to be in Montreal, but coach Mike Babcock said he “wasn’t feeling up to it.”

The 31-year-old Neuvirth has played in the NHL with Washington, Buffalo, the New York Islanders and Philadelphia. He has a career record of 105-93-26, with a .910 save percentage and 2.71 goals-against average in 257 games.

Isles break ground on arena

ELMONT, N.Y. — Work has begun on a \$1.3 billion arena for the New York Islanders hockey team at Belmont Park.

The 19,000-seat arena will also include shops, restaurants and a hotel. Work is expected to be completed in time for the 2021-22 season.

Until then, the Islanders will play home games at the Nassau Coliseum and the Barclays Center in Brooklyn.

The new arena is being built on state-owned property. As part of the work, developers have agreed to pay to build a new Long Island Rail Road station nearby.

— Associated Press



PAUL SANCIA/AP

The Detroit Red Wings are desperately trying to keep fans filing into 2-year-old Little Caesars Arena as the allure of the new facility wears off while the team goes through a painful rebuild. The Red Wings filled the arena to 98% of capacity on average last season.

Keeping butts in the seats

League aims to fill arenas, drawing fans away from TVs

By LARRY LAGE
Associated Press

Red Wings season ticket holder Matt Larson pays about \$74 for two of the cheapest seats in Little Caesars Arena.

The 32-year-old fan gets a pair of chairs set up behind a counter — giving him plenty of space for food and drink — in a spacious area perched near the rafters behind a net.

“There’s nothing better than watching hockey in person,” Larson said recently while watching Detroit host Chicago in a preseason game.

The Red Wings, and every other NHL team, hope there are a lot of people who agree with him.

Detroit is desperately trying to keep fans filing into its arena, which is a little more than two years old, as the allure of the spectacular facility wears off while the team trudges through a multiyear rebuild.

Despite another season without a trip to the playoffs, the Red Wings said the arena was filled to 98% of capacity on average. They ranked in the middle of the pack in a league that generally is able to draw fans to watch its high-speed, full-contact product in person. Ten teams averaged sellouts and just five of 31 franchises had an average attendance last season that didn’t fall at least 90% of their arenas.

While Detroit did not have trouble selling tickets last year, it wasn’t always playing in front of a packed house because some fans simply couldn’t get people to take and use their tickets. To make unoccupied seats stand out less on TV for Red Wings and Pistons games, the red material covering chairs has been replaced by black to blend

in throughout Little Caesars Arena.

“It was an expensive choice,” Larson said. “I would’ve hated to foot the bill for it.”

Like franchises in other sports and leagues, NHL teams are investing in enhancing game-day experiences, knowing there is a lot at stake to keep them coming to arenas instead of staying at home.

“Our biggest competitor is Netflix,” San Jose Sharks vice president Doug Bentz said. “The one advantage we have over Netflix is you’re a part of a community at a Sharks game. We want more of that in our world where so many are stuck on devices in isolation or binge-watching on a couch maybe with one other person.”

On streets and in living rooms, St. Louis is still buzzing from its first Stanley Cup.

The Blues will raise a championship banner Oct. 2 before opening the season against the Washington Capitals. Blues season-ticket holder Mike Buschhorn plans to be there for the party, deciding not to cash in on his tickets by selling them and watching the festivities on TV.

“You have to be at a hockey game in person to get it,” the Blues fan said. “TV doesn’t do it justice. It is the most exciting sport to be at.”

The price of tickets, however, plays a

part in keeping some fans at home.

“It’s a lot cheaper for a 12-pack on the weekends,” Blues fan John Fuchs said.

The Carolina Hurricanes have gotten creative, trying to climb up from the bottom of the NHL’s attendance figures in terms of percentage of capacity. Carolina sold a little more than three-fourths of its tickets at its Raleigh arena last season to rank ahead of only Ottawa after a three-year run of being last in the league.

The team has been offering monthly subscription passes, giving fans access to a certain number of games for a one-time fee at a substantial savings compared to individual tickets. The mobile-only, ticket-selling innovation has become relatively common in Major League Baseball, but the Hurricanes are a unique team in the NHL to try it.

“It gets people in the building for an affordable price,” Hurricanes vice president Mike Forman said. “We think if we can get people to a game, they’re hooked.” Red Wings fan Melanie Bidwell was one of the many hooked on hockey in the Motor City for years, proudly counting herself as a season ticket holder for more than a decade. When the team moved from Joe Louis to Little Caesars Arena two years ago, she continued to buy season tickets.

Last season, she gave up her tickets. “It’s nothing against the Red Wings. We still love them, but it’s not convenient to get to games when you’re juggling work schedules and a 9-year-old boy playing hockey,” she said. “I’m excited that the season is starting again, but our family priorities will keep us at home watching games on TV so we can get our kid in bed for school and we can get up for work.”

Freelance writer Joe Harris in St. Louis contributed to this report

MLB ROUNDUP

Twins move closer to an AL Central title

Associated Press

DETROIT — The Minnesota Twins took another step toward an AL Central title with a 4-2 win over the Detroit Tigers on Tuesday night.

More importantly, they think they dodged an injury that could have significantly hampered their chances in October.

After allowing one run and two hits in the first six innings, Twins starter Jake Odorizzi's attention with some odd arm movements as he warmed up for the seventh. Odorizzi's arm wasn't the problem.

"He asked about my shoulder and I said that was fine — I was just getting the blood flow going again — but my hamstring was cramping a little," Odorizzi said. "I could have kept going, but taking me out was probably the smart thing."

Baldelli agreed and brought in Kyle Gibson.

"Under different circumstances, I would have left Jake out there, but this way we are sure he's going to be fine going forward," he said.

Minnesota's magic number to clinch the division is two over Cleveland. The Indians beat the White Sox 11-0 later Tuesday.

Odorizzi (15-7) hadn't allowed a hit since Harold Castro's hot run in the first and left having struck out six and allowed one run.

"It felt great," he said. "I just need to hydrate a little more."

The Twins improved to 97-60, their most victories since allowing 98-64 in 1970. With three wins in their final five games, they can become the record fourth club with 100 wins this season.

Taylor Rogers pitched a perfect ninth for his 29th save. It was his first appearance since allowing three runs in a loss to Kansas City on Saturday.

Indians 11, White Sox 0: Jose Ramirez hit a grand slam and a three-run homer in his first two plate appearances after missing a month with a broken hand, and Cleveland pounded host Chicago.

Roberto Perez and Oscar Mercado also went deep for the Indians, who won for the sixth time in seven games to remain a half-

Another record season for strikeouts

Major League Baseball has set its season strikeout record for the 12th straight season.

Batters struck out 369 times Tuesday to raise the season total to 41,467. That topped the 41,207 of last season with five days to spare.

After topping hits for the first time in 2018, strikeouts are ahead again. There were 40,853 hits through Tuesday. Last year finished with 41,018 hits.

Strikeouts broke 40,000 for the first time in 2017, when there were 40,104.

Before the record run started in 2008, the mark had been 32,404 in 2001. Strikeouts totaled 29,937 in 1996 before reaching 30,000 for the first time the following year.

MLB also set a record for home runs this season. The league entered Tuesday with 6,550, surpassing the mark of 6,105 set in 2017.

game back of Tampa Bay for the second AL wild card.

Mike Clevinger (13-3) pitched seven innings of five-hit ball and struck out 10 while extending his scoreless streak to 18 innings.

Rays 2, Yankees 1: Ji-Man Choi hit a game-ending home run in the 12th inning that helped host Tampa Bay remain on track for an AL wild-card berth after New York's CC Sabathia pitched a perfect inning in his first regular-season relief appearance.

Choi homered off Cory Gearrin (1-3) after Pete Fairbanks (2-3) struck out Brett Gardner with a runner on second and two outs in the top half of the 12th inning.

Tampa Bay remained a half-game ahead of Cleveland for the second AL wild card.

Angels 3, Athletics 2: Homer Bailey lost for the first time in eight starts and visiting Oakland suffered a setback in its postseason pursuit.

The A's let their lead for the top AL wild card drop to a half-game over Tampa Bay and one game over Cleveland. Their magic number to clinch a playoff spot remained at five with five games left.

David Fletcher had three hits and Albert Pujols drove in his

2,075th run to help the Angels end a seven-game skid.

Diamondbacks 3, Cardinals 2 (19): Ildemaro Vargas had a game-tying pinch-hit homer in the ninth inning and then singled with the bases loaded in the 19th at 1:34 a.m. local time to lift host Arizona past St. Louis.

Carson Kelly and Nick Ahmed started the final rally with back-to-back singles off John Brebbia (3-4), who was the Cardinals' 11th pitcher of the night. Jarrod Dyson and Robbie Ray — a pitcher who had to pinch hit — struck out before Christian Walker was intentionally walked to load the bases.

Then it was Vargas' turn to be the hero again, smacking a single — his fourth hit of the game — through the left side of the infield. He raised his hands as players rushed the field to celebrate.

The game lasted 6 hours and 53 minutes and featured 24 pitchers and 48 strikeouts, with both teams plowing through bullpen arms thanks to September's expanded rosters. The Diamondbacks used a franchise-record 30 players. It was the longest game by innings and time in Chase Field history.

Kevin Ginkel (3-0) pitched a scoreless inning for the win.

St. Louis had its lead in the NL Central cut to 2½ games over Milwaukee. The Cardinals have four games remaining, while the Brewers have five.

Rockies 8, Giants 5 (16): Colorado and host San Francisco combined to use a major league-record 25 pitchers, and Charlie Blackmon hit a three-run homer in the 16th inning to end it.

The game lasted 5 hours, 31 minutes, with Giants manager Bruce Bochy making 12 pitching changes — hardly taking it easy in his final week on the job.

Blackmon's first hit of the night came in his eighth plate appearance off Derek Rodriguez (6-10) for his 31st home run. Both clubs left the bases loaded in the 11th, and Colorado stranded 15 baserunners.

Pirates 9, Cubs 2: At Pittsburgh, freefalling Chicago committed five errors, including two in a seven-run seventh inning, and moved to the brink of elimination with its seventh straight loss.



PAUL SANCIA/AP

Twins Jorge Polanco, left, and Eddie Rosario celebrate after a victory over the Tigers in Detroit on Tuesday. Minnesota's magic number to clinch the AL Central title is two.

The Cubs dropped to 82-75 and would be eliminated with one more loss or Milwaukee win.

Aided by a fielding error by second baseman Ben Zobrist and an errant throw by reliever Danny Hultzen, the Pirates sent 13 batters to the plate in the seventh as they chased starter Kyle Hendricks (11-10) and erased a 1-0 deficit.

Mets 5, Marlins 4 (11): Three outs from postseason elimination, host New York tied it 4-4 in the ninth when Michael Conforto clocked his second two-run homer of the game, connecting off Jose Urena for his 33rd long ball of the season.

Brandon Nimmo won it by working a bases-loaded walk in the 11th against rookie Jeff Brigham.

After wins by Washington and Milwaukee earlier in the day, the Mets needed a victory to stay in the playoff race. They are tied with the plummeting Chicago Cubs, five games behind the Brewers for the second NL wild card with five to play.

Astros 3, Mariners 0: Gerrit Cole won his 15th consecutive decision, striking out 14 and walking none while pitching two-hit ball for seven innings to lead visiting Houston.

Cole (19-5) is unbeaten in 21 starts since losing to the Chicago White Sox on May 22. He is on the longest streak of consecutive winning decisions since Toronto's Roy Halladay was 15-0 during an 18-start span in 2003.

Dodgers 6, Padres 3: Max Muncy hit his first career grand slam and visiting Los Angeles clinched home-field advantages throughout the NL playoffs even before it beat staggering San Diego.

The seven-time NL West champion Dodgers (101-56) locked up home field in NL East champion Atlanta (96-62) lost 9-6 at Kansas City.

Red Sox 12, Rangers 10: Eduardo Rodriguez labored through five innings to get his 19th win, allowing more runs than he had in his previous seven starts combined, and visiting Boston beat Texas.

Rodriguez (19-6) exited with a 127 left after throwing 113 pitches.

Boston (82-75) clinched a winning record while the Rangers (75-82) will have their third straight losing season.

Royals 9, Braves 6: In its first game after manager Ned Yost announced he will retire after the season, host Kansas City burst to a six-run lead in the first three innings and beat NL East champion Atlanta behind three hits and two RBIs from Nicky Lopez.

Orioles 11, Blue Jays 4: Trey Mancini had a career-high five hits, DJ Stewart hit a two-run homer and visiting Baltimore beat Toronto.

With one more victory or a loss by Detroit, the Orioles (51-106) can avoid having baseball's worst record for the second straight season.

Summer
SIZZLER
FINAL DAYS
Don't miss out on
red hot savings UP TO \$4,500

MCS
MILITARY AUTOSOURCE

CHRYSLER

DODGE

Jeep

RAM

Stop by our location on base or visit militaryautosource.com/onbase

Savings valid through 10/9/19 and vary by model. Ask a Sales Representative for complete details. Overseas Military Sales Corporation is an authorized distributor of the Exchange and MILCOM Military Autosource in an authorized distribution to sell and distribute Fiat Chrysler Automobiles. This advertisement does not express or imply endorsement by the Exchange, MILCOM, DOD components, or the Federal Government and is not sponsored by them. (CS29)

X
EXCHANGE

AEV
EXCHANGE

NFL



BEN MAROAT/AP

San Francisco 49ers wide receiver Dante Pettis scores the winning touchdown against the Pittsburgh Steelers during the second half of Sunday's game in Santa Clara, Calif. San Francisco won 24-20.

Pettis' slow start this season leads to big TD

By JOSH DUBOW
Associated Press

DSANTA CLARA, Calif. — Dante Pettis' roller-coaster start to his second season in the NFL has led him to the end zone for the biggest touchdown of the year for the San Francisco 49ers.

Pettis came into the year expected to build on a promising rookie season to become the No. 1 receiver in San Francisco's offense. Instead, he struggled in training camp and drew public criticism from coach Kyle Shanahan, barely saw the field in the opener, wasn't targeted a single time in Week 2 and had an interception go off his hands in the first half this past week against Pittsburgh.

Despite all the lows, Shanahan and quarterback Jimmy Garoppolo still decided to go in Pettis' direction with the Niners trailing late against the Steelers. The move paid off with a 5-yard TD catch that gave the 49ers a 24-20 victory Sunday for their first 3-0 start in 21 years.

"It was good. There obviously have been a lot of ups and downs. I know that's part of sports. I've been around professional sports my whole life," said Pettis, whose father, Gary, is a former major league outfielder.

"I know what happens. You're not just going to be good every single day. Now that I know what it's like to go through that, I know

Did you know

San Francisco 49ers wide receiver Dante Pettis is the son of former Major League Baseball player Gary Pettis.

SOURCE: Associated Press

I can do this. I know I'm here for a reason."

The 49ers were counting heavily on Pettis heading into this season after a strong finish to his rookie season. Pettis caught a 22-yard TD pass from Garoppolo in his NFL debut last year before struggling with knee injuries that limited him to three catches throughout the first nine games of the season.

But Pettis had 17 catches for 338 yards and four TDs during a four-game stretch late in the season before re-injuring his knee, showing why the Niners traded up into the second round to take him in the 2018 draft.

That success didn't carry over into this season as Pettis struggled throughout training camp, leading him to play deep into some exhibitions when most established players were already done for the night as Shanahan said, he hadn't earned a starting role.

Pettis then managed to get on the field for two snaps in the opener at Tampa Bay, catching one pass for 7 yards. After a good week of practice, he got more time in Week 2 in Cincinnati but threw more passes (one) than he had thrown his way (zero) as he once again came off the bench.

"He's just gotten better each week," Shanahan said. "We all know how he finished last year. Had a few humps in the road throughout training camp, which I think has been well documented and I talked about. But, I've been extremely impressed with how he's responded since the first week of the season. He's taken the challenge. He's been working as hard as anyone on our team."

That led to Pettis getting his first start of the season against the Steelers, although that didn't start well with the early interception off his hands and only three catches for 15 yards until the closing minutes.

Then with the game on the line, Garoppolo didn't hesitate to go in his direction when Pettis got open between two defenders at the goal line.

"Dante's phenomenal in practice," Garoppolo said. "I know you guys aren't seeing all that and everything, but he battles in practice. Great mindset of when his number's called, he's ready. You've got to appreciate a guy like that. Having all that competitiveness, you love to see it as a quarterback, because you can trust that."

Statistics

AFC individual leaders

Week 3									
Quarterbacks									
	Att	Com	%	Yds	TD	Int			
Mahomes, KC	114	82	1195	10	0	0			
Dalton, CIN	129	81	5	5	0	0			
Reynolds, LAC	116	77	944	5	2	0			
Brady, NE	106	75	911	5	2	0			
J. Jacobs, OAK	100	63	863	3	0	0			
Mayfield, CLE	109	62	805	3	5	0			
Watson, HOU	83	51	775	3	0	0			
Flacco, DEN	110	76	773	2	2	0			
Josh Allen, BUF	103	66	759	3	0	0			
Mariota, TEN	92	56	706	4	0	0			
Rushers									
	Att	Yds	Avg	LG	TD				
M. Mack, IND	43	257	6.0	49	1				
M. Ingram, BAL	18	115	6.4	19	1				
N. Chubb, CLE	58	233	4.0	63	2				
J. Jacobs, OAK	45	228	5.1	51	2				
D. Henry, TEN	51	210	4.1	18	3				
C. Hyde, HOU	40	192	4.8	20	1				
Fourtett, JAC	43	179	4.2	19	0				
Freeman, DEN	36	173	4.8	26	0				
L. Jackson, BAL	27	172	6.4	69	0				
Gore, BUF	44	164	3.7	22	2				
Receivers									
	Att	Yds	Avg	LG	TD				
K. Allen, LAC	29	404	13.9	34	3				
S. Watkins, KC	20	311	15.6	68	3				
Ross, CIN	13	292	22.5	66	3				
Beckham, CLE	19	288	15.2	89	3				
Kelce, KC	17	284	16.7	42	1				
M. Brown, BAL	14	282	20.1	83	2				
Chark, JAC	24	277	11.5	69	3				
Waller, OAK	26	267	10.3	30	0				
Boyd, CIN	24	249	10.4	27	0				
C. Sutton, DEN	16	247	15.4	52	0				
Punters									
	Att	Yds	Avg	LG	TD				
T. Long, LAC	10	493	60	49.3	0				
Berry, PIT	16	766	60	47.9	0				
A. Cole, OAK	13	615	60	47.3	0				
Sanford, TEN	10	397	70	46.8	0				
Haack, MIA	18	839	62	46.6	0				
L. Edwards, NYJ	24	1097	57	45.7	0				
Sanchez, DEN	9	409	60	45.4	0				
Cooley, JAC	14	636	55	45.4	0				
Sargent, CIN	11	493	44.8	44.8	0				
Baker, NYJ	13	577	58	44.4	0				
Punt returns									
	No	Yds	Avg	LG	TD				
Cy Jones, BAL	5	74	14.8	25	0				
J. Lantry, CLE	8	120	18	28	0				
Rogers, IND	5	47	9.4	11	0				
Spence, DEN	6	38	6.3	17	0				
Ericksen, CIN	6	42	7.0	18	0				
Olsewsky, NYJ	13	68	5.3	19	0				
De'A. Thomas, KC	6	37	6.2	10	1				
Westbrook, JAC	4	14	3.5	9	0				
J. Grant, MIA	5	6	1.2	10	0				
King, LAC	4	-1	-0.2	0	0				
Kickoffs									
	No	Yds	Avg	LG	TD				
King, LAC	4	113	28.2	43	0				
J. Grant, MIA	5	124	24.8	39	0				
D. Phillips, CIN	6	137	22.8	37	0				
P. Campbell, IND	6	113	19.0	26	0				
J. Hill, BAL	5	102	20.4	26	0				
Jennings, TEN	4	78	19.5	26	0				
Scoring									
Touchdowns									
	Att	Yds	Ret	Pts					
M. Ingram, BAL	5	5	0	30					
D. Henry, TEN	4	0	1	0	24				
T. Hilton, IND	4	0	4	24					
R. Allen, BAL	3	147	0	18					
Chark, JAC	3	0	3	0	18				
Sanchez, DEN	3	0	3	0	18				
D. Robinson, KC	3	0	3	0	18				
Sims, CIN	3	0	3	0	18				
S. Watkins, KC	3	0	3	0	18				
Ty Williams, OAK	3	0	3	0	18				
Kicking									
	FG	Pct	FG	Pct					
Butker, KC	10/13	67	41	28					
Gostkowski, NE	10/12	83	37	29					
Tucker, BAL	11/17	65	48	20					
Lambe, JAC	6/7	86	43	20					
McManus, DEN	2/3	67	6	20					
Gary, PIT	4/5	80	2	28					
Seibert, CLE	4/5	80	4	19					
Allen, PIT	3/3	100	0	13					
T. Long, LAC	6/6	100	4	18					
Santos, TEN	8/8	100	3	17					

AFC team statistics

Week 3									
AVERAGE PER GAME									
OFFENSE									
	Yds	Rush	Pass		Yds	Rush	Pass		
Baltimore	483.7	107.7	295.7						
Kansas City	415.0	94.7	392.3						
Atlanta	387.3	89.7	325.7						
L.A. Chargers	408.3	111.7	296.7						
Buffalo	391.3	151.3	240.0						
Indianapolis	351.0	115.0	236.0						
Cincinnati	350.0	42.0	308.0						
Denver	342.0	111.3	230.7						
Jacksonville	307.3	110.7	196.7						
Cleveland	330.3	89.0	241.3						
Oakland	322.0	105.0	217.0						
Cincinnati	307.3	110.7	196.7						
Pittsburgh	269.3	64.0	205.3						
Green Bay	300.3	177.3	123.0						
N.Y. Jets	196.7	65.7	131.0						
DEFENSE									
	Yds	Rush	Pass		Yds	Rush	Pass		
New England	199.0	36.7	162.3						
Buffalo	279.7	89.7	190.0						
Tennessee	308.7	119.0	189.7						
San Francisco	204.7	44.0	160.7						
Cleveland	315.3	102.0	213.3						
Baltimore	350.7	60.3	290.3						
Indianapolis	351.3	110.7	240.7						
L.A. Chargers	367.3	112.0	251.3						
San Francisco	375.3	88.7	286.7						
San Diego	386.7	107.7	279.0						
N.Y. Jets	395.7	137.7	258.0						
Oakland	398.7	112.3	286.3						
Cincinnati	403.3	136.7	266.7						
Pittsburgh	442.0	139.3	302.7						
Miami	499.3	208.0	291.3						

NFC individual leaders

Week 3									
Quarterbacks									
	Att	Com	%	Yds	TD	Int			
Keenum, WAS	124	86	933	7	3	0			
Ryan, ATL	123	82	931	7	2	0			
Prescott, DAL	94	70	920	9	2	0			
R. Wilson, SEA	105	75	901	7	0	0			
St. Louis, DET	107	67	831	7	0	0			
K. Murray, ARI	137	84	830	4	3	0			
Wentz, PHI	103	67	863	3	3	0			
Winston, TAM	98	59	782	5	4	0			
Garoppolo, SF	86	58	739	5	4	0			
Goff, LA	105	66	738	5	0	0			
Rushers									
	Att	Yds	Avg	LG	TD				
D. Cook, MIN	57	275	4.8	75	4				
McCauley, CAR	59	318	5.4	76	2				
E. Elliott, DAL	55	289	5.3	27	2				

COLLEGE FOOTBALL

Fink likely starter for No. 21 Trojans

By GREG BEACHAM
Associated Press

LOS ANGELES—Quarterback Kedon Slovis is in the concussion protocol for No. 21 Southern California, increasing the likelihood of Matt Fink making his first career start at No. 17 Washington this weekend.

Coach Clay Helton confirmed Tuesday night that Slovis isn't currently cleared to practice or play.

Slovis was injured on the second play of the Trojans' victory over then-No. 10 Utah last Friday. Fink stepped in and passed for 351 yards with ample help from his outstanding receivers in USC's 30-23 win.

Fink is likely to lead the underdog Trojans against the defending Pac-12 champion Huskies (3-1, 0-1). Offensive coordinator Graham Harrell is working overtime to train his third starting quarterback in five games — and the non-quarterbacks who would be Fink's backup, including a walk-on safety and a starting receiver.

"We plan on playing Fink," Harrell said. "And if something happens, you're in a scramble situation and you've got to make the best of what you've got."

The Trojans (3-1, 2-0 Pac-12) installed a completely new Air Raid offense this season under Harrell, but have still managed a solid start despite upheaval at the scheme's most important position.

J.T. Daniels was lost to a season-ending knee injury right before halftime in USC's season opener, and 18-year-old freshman Slovis stepped in to start the next three games. He was outstanding in a victory over a ranked Stanford team, but threw three interceptions in an embarrassing overtime loss at BYU.

Fink realizes he could be playing for the permanent starting job if he performs well in Slovis' absence, but it's all tied to the Trojans' overall success.

"Every day is a great oppor-

tunity, especially today," Fink said. "Again, it (stinks) to see anyone on the team get hurt, but that leaves more opportunity and more doors for myself, so I'm going to go ahead and take that and run with it."

Fink will be USC's only scholarship quarterback at Washington if Slovis doesn't suit up. Jack Sears, who finished fourth in the four-man quarterback competition in training camp despite previous starting experience at USC, entered the transfer portal and hasn't returned to the team.

Fink nearly left the Trojans himself after spring football, entering the transfer portal and even taking a visit to Illinois. The Rancho Cucamonga native strongly considered a move to the Illini before returning to USC in June, citing a desire to stay close to home.

When asked to choose the best part of his performance against Utah, he cited the chance to celebrate afterward with his family. Fink's father was at practice Tuesday to watch him running the first-team offense.

"It's kind of surreal, (but) it's an amazing opportunity for me and the team to keep moving forward," Fink said.

Fink threw 18 passes in his first two seasons at USC as a backup to Sam Darnold and Daniels. He threw 30 more against the Utes, including one TD pass apiece to Tyler Vaughans, Michael Pittman Jr. and Amon-Ra St. Brown, his triumvirate of elite receivers.

Helton and Harrell are getting creative to prepare backups for the potential disaster of Fink going down with an injury.

Brandon Perdue, a walk-on junior who played quarterback sparingly in high school and junior college before moving to safety at USC, would be Fink's primary backup. He has been the quarterback of USC's scout team in practice, but hasn't thrown a competitive pass since his brief action for New Mexico Military Institute in 2017.



THOMAS GRANING/AP

California tight end Jake Tonges, left, shakes off Mississippi defensive back Jalen Julius for a 60-yard touchdown catch during the second half of last week's game in Oxford, Miss. California won 28-20.

Around the Pac-12

Believe it or not, Cal's the only unbeaten team

By ANNE M. PETERSON
Associated Press

Following California's victory over Mississippi, coach Justin Wilcox said: "We find a way to make it interesting."

Yes, they certainly do.

The Golden Bears not only emerged with a dramatic 28-20 victory over Ole Miss last weekend but the win also left them as the lone undefeated team in the Pac-12.

Cal (4-0, 1-0) is among the league's biggest surprises going into Week 5 of the season. Also surprising? The Trojans finding ways to win big games at home even when faced with considerable challenges. And the previously winless Bruins knocking off Washington State in spectacular fashion.

The Pac-12 is the only Power 5 conference with just one undefeated team left. Heading into last weekend, there were four, but the Cougars, Utah and Arizona State all lost as the league cannibalized itself.

Cal, meanwhile, was becoming the first Pac-12 team to win on the road against the SEC since 2010, when Oregon beat Tennessee 48-13 in Knoxville. The Bears jumped from No. 23 to No. 15 in the AP rankings as a result.

The victory was dramatic. Cal linebacker Evan Weaver tackled Ole Miss quarterback John Rhys Plumlee for no gain at the 1-yard line as time expired. Just before that, Plumlee had completed a third-down pass to Elijah Moore at the 1 yard with less than 15 seconds remaining.

Mississippi coach Matt Luke pleaded with the officials to stop the clock for a look at the replay, but the Pac-12 officiating crew quickly marked the ball at the 1-yard line and the Rebels attempted, unsuccessfully, to score on Plumlee's quarterback sneak.

The Pac-12 issued a statement Sunday night saying it had confirmed that officials correctly ruled that Ole Miss "did not score a touchdown and there was no irrefutable video evidence to reverse those

calls by replay." But the conference also said it would have "supported" stopping play in this instance for a review to confirm the call.

Other surprises in the Pac-12 heading into Week 5.

Bruins' big win

Goodness, where to start? Winless UCLA (1-3, 1-0) rallied from a 32-point deficit in the second half to beat Washington State 67-63 in the highest-scoring game in league history. The Bruins scored 50 points in 19 minutes.

Sophomore quarterback Dorian Thompson-Robinson set a UCLA record with 564 yards of total offense, including a career-high 507 passing yards and five touchdowns. He was named the Pac-12's Offensive Player of the Week.

At the same time it was a surprising meltdown for the Cougars (3-1, 0-1). Anthony Gordon threw nine touchdown passes and WSU still lost the game.

The Bruins visited Arizona (2-1) on Saturday, while Washington State is at No. 19 Utah (3-1, 0-1).

The Trojans

Clay Helton's seat got a little less hot following No. 21 USC's 30-23 victory Friday night over the Utes. And the Trojans pulled it off with a third-string quarterback.

Combine that with an earlier win over Stanford, and USC tops the South with a 2-0 conference record.

One downside, the conference's chances at a College Football Playoff berth just got way narrower. Whereas Utah was favored to win the South, and still could, only Cal and Oregon seem to have a sliver of a CFP hope now. The Golden Bears likely need to go undefeated and the Ducks need Auburn to keep winning.

Oh, and the Golden Bears visit the Ducks on Oct. 5.



MARCIO JOSE SANCHEZ/AP

Southern Cal quarterback Matt Fink took over on the third play of the game last week after starter Kedon Slovis suffered a concussion during the Trojans' 30-23 victory over then-No. 10 Utah.

SPORTS



Pettis perseveres

49ers wide receiver catches big TD after early struggles » **NFL, Page 30**

MLB

Wild ride

Nationals, 19-31 in May, sweep Phillies to lock up NL playoff berth

By HOWARD FENDRICH
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Dave Martinez's words were drenched with emotion as he stood in a booze-soaked clubhouse, Washington Nationals players celebrating all around after clinching an NL wild card exactly four months after they woke up with a 19-31 record and calls for him to be replaced as manager.

It's been quite a turnaround for Martinez — and for his club.

"They don't want to go home. They want to keep playing," Martinez said Tuesday night, wearing the same red T-shirt reading "Let's get wild" as his players had on. "They don't quit."

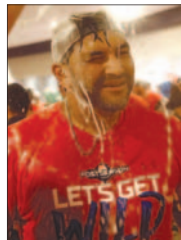
Trea Turner's go-ahead grand slam in the sixth inning lifted Washington to a 6-5 comeback victory over

Inside:

- Brewers close in on 2nd straight playoff appearance, Page 29
- Twins reduce magic number to two in AL Central, Page 27
- Record number of strikeouts for 12th consecutive season, Page 27

the Philadelphia Phillies for a doubleheader sweep that assured the Nationals of extending their season and eliminated the Phillies from playoff contention.

SEE NATIONALS ON PAGE 29



Above: Washington Nationals shortstop Trea Turner rounds the bases after hitting a go-ahead grand slam in the sixth inning of the second game against the Philadelphia Phillies on Tuesday night in Washington.

Left: Nats manager Dave Martinez celebrates in the clubhouse after his team clinched an NL wild card. Martinez seemed likely to lose his job after an 82-80 rookie season and a dismal record through 50 games this year.

Photos by Patrick Semansky/AP

NHL teams competing with screens for fans » Page 26

